

healing (in more ways than one)

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by [orphan_account](#)

Summary

For his entire life, Tommy dreamed of seeing the floating lights in person. His brother Dream, however, won't even let him leave his cottage, let alone go off into the world. With the help of Tubbo, a thief who breaks into his home while hiding from the kingdom, he just might be able to.

Tubbo just wants to sell the lost prince's crown in exchange for a healing potion for Ranboo, who is gravely injured. However, when he meets Tommy, a loud teen with healing abilities, he might not have to. After all, he only needs to take the guy to see the lanterns. Easy, right?

Princes Wilbur and Technoblade have been trying to track down Tubbo, but they lost him soon after he stole their missing brother's crown. Tubbo and Ranboo have been stealing from the castle for quite some time, but never anything this valuable. And even though they have yet to catch their criminal frenemies in all the years they've known each other, they're determined to get back the crown.

or the dream smp tangled au that literally no one asked for but i decided to write anyway

Notes

hello! this is my first time ever posting my work, so please enjoy!! also forgive any errors i am very tired

i also just want to remind everyone that this is all platonic!! no shipping at all (i know that rapunzel and flynn end up together which is great for them but for here no <3)

beginnings

Chapter Summary

prologue basically

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)

Long ago, the sun had gifted the earth with a single drop of its essence. This drop grew into a flower, said to contain the strength, power, and healing of the sun.

One day, the flower was discovered by a power-obsessed man, known by the name Dream (spoiler alert: he's a bit of a dickhead). After studying it intensively, Dream found that the flower not only had the ability to heal, but to reduce his age and keep him young if he sang to it. Selfishly, Dream hid the flower, and kept its power to himself for generations.

One faithful day, however, this would change.

In the centuries since the sun's gift, communities formed, eventually joining together to form a strong and happy kingdom known as L'manburg. The flower faded into legend, and was mentioned around the kingdom only in passing or in fun.

This changed when their beloved queen became gravely ill. As she was pregnant, the king, Philza, was not only worried for her life, but their unborn child's as well. Many tried to heal her, but their power was simply not enough.

The kingdom was losing hope, until someone reminded the royal family of the legend of the flower. Desperate to try to save their queen and her child, many citizens volunteered to help look for the flower. Dream heard of this search, and tried to figure out how to hide it better.

Luckily, he was too late, and the flower was found. It was brewed into a potion and given to the queen, who was healed almost instantly.

She gave birth to an adorable, healthy baby boy with lovely golden hair.

It was the older twin princes, Wilbur and Technoblade, that decided on his name: Theseus.

The entire kingdom rejoiced. A whole new song, named Cat, was composed in honour of Theseus' birth and played throughout the kingdom during the countless celebrations. The royal family and their citizens were ecstatic, unaware of what was to come.

When Dream heard of what became of the flower, he was furious, and was willing to do anything to get its power back into his control. He snuck into the castle late at night, and

found the little prince sleeping peacefully.

He could sense the magic in the boy.

He sang under his breath, and sure enough, Theseus began to glow softly, making Dream slightly younger once more.

Delighted that the power was still active, he took the baby from the cradle, eager to have the flower back in his possession despite its form. Theseus began to cry, and the queen woke up. She quickly tried to take him back from Dream's arms, but he stabbed her in the stomach.

By the time the king and the twin princes made it to the crib, the queen was dead, and Theseus was nowhere to be found.

Dream brought the prince to a cottage hidden inside a cavern on the outskirts of the kingdom's neighbouring forest. He decided to raise him as his own, and renamed him Tommy to sever any connection to the throne.

Dream vowed to keep his flower safe, no matter what.

Tommy grew up to be full of personality. He was loud, impulsive, funny, and somewhat annoying. However, he always made sure to follow all of the rules his older brother set out for him: don't talk back (Dream was okay with some banter, but Tommy knew not to take it too far, or there'd be consequences), do what you are told, and most importantly, stay inside the cavern.

While he was allowed to explore and play in the small, grassy glade inside of it, leaving was strictly out of the question. Even though he was curious about what was outside, his brother made it clear that it was too dangerous to see. Whenever he would ask about what was beyond the secluded area, Dream would always say the same thing.

"The world is a cruel place, Tommy. People are power-hungry, and you have enough to feed the entire kingdom's evil desires."

While Tommy never *broke* the rules, there was one night each year that he bent them: his birthday.

Each year, late at night, floating lights would fill the sky. When Tommy first saw them on his sixth birthday, he was mesmerised by their beauty. He eagerly snuck to the window the next night, only to find that the lights were not there. He waited by the window each night after that, but no lights appeared until the night of his seventh birthday.

He concluded that they only happened on his birthday, which sparked the question of *why*? He wanted to ask his brother, but decided against it. Although looking out the window at night wasn't *technically* breaking any rules, he didn't want to risk making him angry.

And so, the floating lights became his secret, a magical phenomenon much like himself. A secret, however, can only last so long.

Chapter End Notes

ooo first chapter done (sorry it's a bit short, but the next one will be longer)! i will definitely be posting more soon so stay tuned if you liked it! i'd very much appreciate any comments so feel free to leave some :D

questions and answers

Chapter Summary

tommy's birthday is coming up, and he finally works up the courage to ask dream to take him to see the floating lights. it does not go as planned.

Chapter Notes

hello!! update time!! just a tw for manipulation, blood, and cutting, in case you missed it in the tags. enjoy!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

“Fuck this, man.”

Tommy threw down his bow angrily. Dream had mentioned how it may be fun to learn archery, and Tommy, with nothing else to do, agreed. Besides, archery sounded cool! However, after he missed his twentieth shot, he was beginning to think otherwise.

He walked over to where the arrows had landed (not one of them anywhere close to the target), and began picking them up. When he was done, he sat down and sighed. He thought that learning archery meant that Dream would actually *teach* him, not give him a bow then go off on another one of his trips.

Whatever. He could function just fine on his own.

He aimed at the target and took his shot. The arrow flew past it, landing in the nearby pond. Tommy groaned, and brought the bow and arrows back inside, grabbing his sword instead. *Now this is much more up my alley.*

He went outside and began swinging, practicing what Dream taught him about stance and movements. After a while, his mind began to drift.

It was his seventeenth birthday coming up, and Tommy was trying to work up the courage to ask his brother for the one thing he’s always wanted: to see the floating lights. After all, he’s a Big Man now, so why wouldn’t Dream agree? He could handle himself just fine! He was practically a master swordsman, and was amazing at observation.

“Your stance is off.” Tommy spun around and aimed his sword at the voice. Dream raised his hands in mock surrender, smirking with his mask pushed off to the side of his face. Tommy

lowered the sword and sighed shakily.

“Fuck you man, you scared the shit out of me.” Dream laughed, ruffling Tommy’s hair. He leaned into the touch.

“Maybe if you were more aware of your surroundings, you would’ve seen me.” Tommy huffed, but he knew his brother was right.

Together, the two walked inside the cottage. After handing his bag to Tommy for him to put away, Dream sat down on the couch and sighed.

“How was your trip? You were gone for days.”

“Tiring. You know how the kingdom can be.” Tommy rolled his eyes.

“Not really.” He muttered. He froze, and looked toward Dream. He was not a fan of Tommy’s snide comments. His brother raised his eyebrows, yet did nothing (luckily). Instead, he examined his hands, frowning at the small scars and wrinkles.

“Say, Tommy, I’m feeling a bit run down. Would you sing for me?”

“Oh! Yeah, of course. Sorry I forgot.” Tommy sat down next to him and put his hand on his shoulder. Once the song was finished, Dream relaxed into the couch, slightly more youthful than before. He looked over at Tommy, scanning his face.

“Something on your mind? You usually don’t forget to sing whenever I get home.” Tommy startled and looked up at him.

“Well, uh, y’know, Big Man shit.” Dream was not impressed.

“Tommy,” he warned, “You know I don’t like it when you hide stuff from me.”

“I know, I know! It’s just, well, you know how my birthday is coming up in a week...”

“Uh-huh.” Tommy took a deep breath. *It’s now or never.*

“I wanna see the floating lights!” For a split second, Tommy swore he saw Dream frown angrily, but he quickly covered it up with amusement. Maybe Tommy was just seeing things?

“You mean the stars?” Dream huffed out a laugh as Tommy blushed in embarrassment.

“That’s the thing; they’re not stars! Stars stay the same every night, but the lights only appear on my birthday. And I just think that now that I’m seventeen, I can handle myself out there, and-”

“Handle yourself?” Dream cut him off, standing and seething with anger.

“Let’s be honest Tommy, you wouldn’t last more than an hour out there.”

“But-”

“Don’t cut me off.” Dream said dangerously. Tommy shrunk back.

“You’re weak, immature, clumsy, and quite frankly not skilled enough to be out there.” Tommy dug his nails into his fist.

He wanted to yell, to scream at his brother that he was wrong. But who was he kidding? Dream was right. He just wasn’t good enough. Dream looked over at him and sighed.

“I’m only doing this because I love you, Tommy. Your power needs to be protected and I don’t want you getting hurt.” Tommy smiled up at him, but it didn’t reach his eyes.

“I know. Thank you.” Dream held his arms out, and Tommy hugged him tight.

It wasn’t until dinner that Tommy brought up his birthday again.

“So, I know that the, uh, *stars* are off the table, but I think I know what I want for my birthday now.” Dream looked over at him from across the table.

“And what’s that?”

“A new Chirp disc? The old one broke months ago.” Dream hummed, thinking.

“That’s a long trip. I can go, but I’ll miss your birthday.”

“That’s okay! We can celebrate after.”

“Okay, I’ll leave tomorrow morning. Are you sure you’ll be okay alone?” Tommy nodded.

“Yeah, it wouldn’t be the first time. I know I’m safe as long as I’m here.”

After Tommy woke up, he began packing a bag for Dream’s journey, listing off what he packed in his head. *Food? Check. Compass? Check. Dagger? Check.* He sighed and looked down at his wrist. Small scars, both old and new, littered his arms. *One thing left.*

Just then, Dream walked into the room. He looked over Tommy’s shoulder, checking to make sure he packed his bag correctly. He hummed, satisfied, and reached into the bag, pulling out the dagger and a glass vial.

Tommy held out his wrist and Dream held it gently before cutting swiftly into it. Tommy winced as his blood dripped into the vial. Once it was full, Dream rubbed some of the excess blood onto the wound, which glowed before healing it. Tommy looked up, surprised.

“You’re letting me heal? Why?” Dream smiled.

“Think of it as a bit of an early birthday present. Besides, you’ve been good recently.” He ruffled Tommy’s hair, then grabbed the bag and walked towards the door. Pulling on his mask and equipping his bow and sword, he gave Tommy one last smile.

“Stay safe. I’ll see you soon.”

With that, Dream left, leaving Tommy alone once more. He sighed and sat down on the couch, slightly light headed from the blood loss.

His brother usually only filled the vial halfway, but since the journey was a longer one, it made sense that he would need more. Who knows how many times Dream may need to heal himself while he was out? After all, he was only going on the trip to get the disc for *Tommy*, so the least he could do was give a bit of his power to keep his brother safe.

Right?

Chapter End Notes

chapter two is done :D thank you so much to everyone who read or left kudos, it means so much to me that people are actually liking this lol anyway leave a comment if you want and vibe!! see you soon

stay tuned next chapter will have tubbo finally

theft

Chapter Summary

after outrunning wilbur and technoblade, tubbo decides to lay low in a seemingly abandoned cottage hidden deep in the forest. key word: seemingly.

Chapter Notes

here you go its tubbo time

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Tubbo was not having the best morning. Sure, stealing the crown of the lost prince wasn't the most *moral* thing to do, but he needed the money to get a healing potion for Ranboo! He clutched his bag as he jumped over another log in the forest, arrows flying by.

"Tubbo! Get back here right now!" Wilbur yelled behind him as Technoblade shot a couple arrows in his direction. It was weird having the princes hunt him down with this much hostility. Usually, after him and Ranboo stole from the castle, they would yell after them, chasing them around the kingdom, but it was more out of annoyance and amusement. The two had been stealing from the castle for years! What was the problem with it now?

"You know how important that crown is! When I get my hands on you, you'll be thrown into jail!" Oh. Right. The crown was their only connection to their missing brother. Tubbo felt a pang of guilt rush through him. After all, the twins never really hunted them down for stealing, it was more of a game between friends.

He glanced back, staring into Technoblade's angry eyes.

Frenemies, then.

He slowed down, only for an arrow to narrowly miss his head.

"Tech! Be careful! We want to arrest him, not kill him!"

"Speak for yourself, Wilbur." Tubbo sped up again. Could you really blame him for stealing it? It's not like he wanted it for himself! Ranboo was gravely injured, and probably wouldn't make it too much longer without a healing potion.

He shot some arrows of his own back at the princes, but they dodged easily. He turned right, narrowly avoiding falling down a wide, deep hole. Wilbur, however, had no such luck, and

lost his balance. He reached out to Technoblade, who was unprepared, and the two fell in.

“You can run, Tubbo, but we’ll find you!” Tubbo sprinted away as fast as he could. Once he felt he was far enough, he went to lean on a vine-covered portion of a massive cliff formation to catch his breath. However, he fell through and into a small cave with light shining at the end of the tunnel. He was about to leave it when he heard shouting. *Guess they got out of the hole.*

Tubbo ran down the tunnel, and exited into a small, grassy cavern. In the centre of it sat a small cottage. *Perfect.*

He opened the door, scanning the interior. Due to his adrenaline, he didn’t realize that it was far too clean to be abandoned. He shut the door and stepped inside. *This will be a great place to lay low for a few hours.*

Out of nowhere, the blunt end of a sword hit the back of his head, and he was knocked out.

Tubbo dreamed of the day before. He had asked all over town for a way to heal his friend, and was given the same answer: Dream.

People said that he sold the most powerful healing potions in the kingdom, and that they could heal any wound imaginable. However, he was warned that they were amazingly expensive, and that Dream himself was very dangerous. Despite this, Tubbo had hope, so he entered the alleyway where they were said to be sold.

He watched as the man worked, taking out a potion bottle and filling it with water. He pulled out an almost-empty glass vial with a thick, dark red liquid in it and placed a drop into the potion, swirling the mixture until it began to glow softly. Tubbo swallowed nervously. *It looks like blood, but what creature? Maybe a fairy, or a mermaid, or a-* he cut himself off as Dream turned toward him, bottle in hand.

“You’re Dream, right? The guy who makes the healing potions?”

“That’s me. What can I do for you, Tubbo?”

"How do you know my name?" Tubbo asked, looking at the man sceptically.

"I've been around the kingdom for quite a while," Dream smirked, then grew serious. "Why do you need a potion?"

“My friend Ranboo is hurt, and the townspeople say that it can heal anything.” Dream nodded, and scanned over the teen.

“Listen, I’m gonna be honest: it’s out of your price range.” Tubbo froze, then quickly reached into his bag, pulling out various small gems and coins.

“This is all I have. Please.” He begged. Dream hummed.

“You’re a thief, yeah? Bring me something far more valuable, and you’ve got a deal.” Tubbo walked out of the alleyway dejectedly.

Where was he going to find something more valuable? Those gems were from the castle! He racked his brain, but couldn’t think of anything.

He wandered around the kingdom until dawn. Eventually, he had ended up in the town square, looking up at the memorial for the lost prince. The whole royal family smiled down at him, yet he could only focus on one thing: the crown on the baby’s head. *Now, that’s something valuable.*

He looked at the sun, just beginning to light up the horizon. *If I head toward the palace now, there’ll still be enough darkness to cover me until I’m inside.* There had been no time for hesitation as he took off for the castle.

On top of the palace roof, just above the crown room, was apparently the perfect time for hesitation.

The crown meant a lot to Wilbur and Techno. *Is it really worth it?*

His brain supplied the memory of Ranboo, body burning as he fell into the water.

Tubbo removed the roof panel, looking into the vault below. He tied a rope to part of the roof, then to himself. Taking a deep breath, he began climbing down. Once his feet touched the ground, he used the handle of his sword to smash the glass case around the crown. It shattered, and the noise echoed throughout the room. *Fuck! Hopefully no one heard that.*

The door to the vault slammed open and princes Wilbur and Technoblade burst in. *Shit.* They froze, and looked at him in shock and betrayal.

“Tubbo? But, why?” Wilbur said in disbelief.

“I’m sorry.” Tubbo quickly climbed up the rope and took off toward the forest. Once he had enough courage to glance back, he saw the twins chasing after him.

His memory suddenly became groggy, and he felt himself begin to regain consciousness.

When he opened his eyes, he noticed three things: he was tied up, the crown was missing, and he was not alone.

and chapter 3 is done!! thank you again to everyone who read or left kudos, it means a lot!! hope you enjoyed and feel free to leave a comment!

deal

Chapter Summary

tommy finds an intruder in his home and does the only logical thing: befriends him.

Chapter Notes

hello!!! first off i wanna apologize for taking so long to update. school was literally kicking my ass lmao but i'm better now and i am ready to go!! thank you so much to everyone who's read, left kudos, and commented it really means a lot!! once again i'm so sorry and i promise i'll update faster :) anyway hope you enjoy

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

“What the fuck?”

Tommy stared down at the newly unconscious trespasser. He had been laying in his bed when he heard the door open. Despite his lightheadedness, he had sat up to go greet his brother. However, as he reached toward the doorknob, he realized something: Dream never came in unannounced.

Tommy had grabbed his sword, blood pumping with adrenaline, and silently left his room.

From the hallway, he had seen a person that was *definitely* not Dream in his house. Taking a deep breath, he ran toward the intruder and struck his head with the blunt end of his sword, knocking him out. After finding some rope and tying the guy to a chair, Tommy began pacing and running his fingers through his hair.

How the fuck did he find me? What does he want?

He looked the man over a bit more and noticed a bag at his side, along with some weapons.

He took the satchel and reached inside, pulling out a crown. After thinking for a second, Tommy put the crown back in the bag and hid it under the couch cushions.

He went to take the guy's sword, but when he grasped it he began to stir. Jumping back, Tommy grabbed his own sword and aimed it at the man who had just opened his eyes.

“What do you want, bitch?” Now on high alert, Tubbo looked up and found himself face-to-face with a kid around his age. He began to wiggle in his restraints. His struggle was meant with obnoxiously loud laughter.

“I know how to tie knots, dickhead. You’re not getting out of there unless I want you to. Now answer the question, or I’ll keep you and your crown here forever.” Tubbo glanced around the room, but could not see the bag with the crown anywhere.

“Listen, I don’t want any trouble. I thought this place was abandoned! I just needed to lay low for a bit.” The teen looked at Tubbo quizzically, but lowered his sword slightly.

“Wait, so, you’re not here for me?”

“No! I don’t even know who you are! Why would I be here for you?” The man looked to debate this. *Maybe he’s not used to visitors?* He decided that a bit of kindness wouldn’t hurt. After all, this was all just a misunderstanding! If he shows the guy he means no harm, he might let him off the hook.

“My name is Tubbo. What’s yours?”

“Tommy.” He sounded very hesitant.

“Well, it’s nice to meet you, Tommy! As I was saying earlier, this is just a big misunderstanding, so if you just untie me I’ll take my things and be on my way-”

“Not a chance. You gotta answer some questions for me first.” Tubbo sighed but nodded.

“Fine. Hit me.”

Tommy took a second to think of what to ask first. There was so much he wanted to know, and now he had a source of knowledge right in front of him! *You’re getting ahead of yourself. He might not even have any answers.* He hummed. *Better start with an easy one.*

“How, uh, how old are you?” The kid, *Tubbo*, his mind supplied, looked surprised at the question.

“17, Why?” Tommy looked at him. *Holy shit! What are the odds that the first person I meet is my age?* Tubbo coughed awkwardly.

“Oh! Nice. I am too. Or I will be, in a few days.” Tommy paused for a second.

“Wait, how are you older than me? You’re so much shorter!” Tubbo huffed in offended disbelief.

“What the hell, man! I’m not that short! And my height has nothing to do with my age! I bet I could kick your ass.” Tommy laughed.

“Sorry, sorry. Seems like I hit a nerve there. Anyway, are you from the kingdom?”

“I live a bit outside of it, but I go there every day, so I’d say so.” Tommy lit up, excitement spreading across his face.

“That’s so cool! Is it fun? How many people live there? Is it really that dangerous? How do you survive? Do you-”

“Woah woah woah! Slow down a bit, man! Okay, uh, yes it’s fun, quite a lot of people live in it, and no, it’s actually super safe! Crime is actually very low-” Tommy froze. *It’s not that dangerous? But, Dream always said-*

“You good there?” Tommy flinched.

“Sorry. But, you’re telling me the truth? It’s not crazy dangerous?” Tubbo looked very confused.

“No? Why? Have you never been?” Tommy looked down, slightly embarrassed.

“No.”

“Oh! Well, you should really check it out soon if you haven’t. The lantern festival is in a few days, and-”

“Lanterns?”

“Yeah? The kingdom holds the festival once a year, and it’s really beautiful-” Tommy’s mind was moving a mile a minute. *Lanterns! Of course! I knew they weren’t stars!* Tubbo was still talking, so Tommy tuned back into what he was saying.

“I usually go see them with my friend, Ranboo. But, he’s- shit. Oh my god.” Tubbo paled.

“Fuck. Listen, it’s been great meeting you, Tommy, but I’m kinda on a time limit here. So, if you could just untie me and give me back the crown, I’ll be out of your hair!”

Tommy, however, had begun to form a plan. *Dream is gone until a couple days after my birthday, and by then I should be back, so he wouldn’t even find out I left!*

“So, you really need this crown, huh?”

“Yes! Please.” Tommy hummed.

“Okay, how about this: you take me to see the lanterns, bring me back home, and I’ll give you back your crown.” Tubbo got more frantic.

“But-”

“Nope. Final offer. Unless you don’t want your crown back?”

Tubbo didn’t know what to do. On one hand, Ranboo would probably be fine for a couple more days without the potion, but Tubbo was still worried. Looking at Tommy, he could tell the teen would not change his mind. He sighed.

“Just to clarify, I get the crown as soon as you’re back home safe?” Tommy smiled wide and pulled out his sword. Tubbo flinched as Tommy swung, but he only cut the ropes. Tommy stuck out his hand, and Tubbo shook it.

“Deal.”

Chapter End Notes

aaaaaand update done!! hope you enjoyed!! its about to pick up more so stay tuned!!

the chase begins

Chapter Summary

princes wilbur and technoblade reflect on their feelings toward tubbo stealing their lost brother's crown. meanwhile, dream's paranoia gets the best of him as he heads back to the cottage to check on tommy, who has already left to go see the lanterns with tubbo.

Chapter Notes

helloooooo!!! i am back and i want to say a huge thank you for 200 kudos!! it means so much to me that people actually enjoy reading

anyway here you go

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Wilbur was pissed.

After all those years of letting Tubbo and Ranboo steal from the castle (god knows the kids needed the money), all the time spent chasing after them without the intention to catch, *this* is how he's treated? *This* is what he gets in return? They were friends, for fuck's sake! Why would Tubbo steal the one thing that was most important to him? Tubbo knew how much that crown meant to him, and yet he still stole it.

It was betrayal of the highest order.

Looking over to Technoblade, Wilbur could see the pure fury in his eyes and knew he was feeling the same way.

"We'll find him, Tech. We'll find the crown and bring him to justice." Technoblade's eyes darkened as he tightened his grip on his axe.

"I don't want your type of justice. I want revenge." Wilbur sighed.

"Listen, I know you're angry, and believe me, I am too. But we can't kill the kid--"

"Have you forgotten who that crown belongs to? Because I haven't, and I will not rest until Tubbo has paid for what he stole from our brother--" Wilbur winced.

"Don't. Please. I just- let's get back the crown first, yeah? That's what's important." Techno looked him in the eyes, then sighed, putting his axe back into its holder.

“Fine. Which direction do you think he went?” After some debating, they headed off, determined to get back what rightfully belonged to their little brother. It was time for their long lasting chase to come to an end.

“Wilbur! Where are you?” Dream paused. No one usually went this deep into the forest, let alone had the confidence in their fighting skills to be yelling out like that. The voice called once more, and Dream followed the sound until he saw none other than Prince Technoblade.

He hid behind a large boulder, making sure that the prince wouldn’t notice him. What is he doing out here, anyway? He kept turning his head, seemingly looking for someone. He then sighed and muttered to himself. Dream strained his ears to hear.

“I can’t believe him. I swear to god if he found the kid himself-” Dream’s blood ran cold.

Had they found Tommy? *No. There’s no way. Is there?*

Dream quickly took off toward the cavern. Luckily, he wasn’t too far along his journey, so he was able to get back in half an hour. Sprinting through the vines, he ran down the tunnel and through the field, stumbling into the small cottage.

“Tommy?” He called. *No answer.*

“Tommy! Where are you? This isn’t a joke! Come here right now, or you’ll regret it!” He checked all throughout the cottage, yet there was no sign of the boy. He ran back outside, scanning the grassy glade for him, but he was nowhere to be found.

Seething with anger, Dream went back inside. He went to sit on the couch to collect his thoughts, but stopped when he felt something under the cushions. He pulled them off to reveal a satchel holding the crown of the lost prince. Placing the bag on his shoulder, Dream left the cottage and unsheathed his sword.

They would pay for daring to take Tommy away from him.

Tommy stumbled after tripping on yet another tree root. Tubbo was in front of him, and had been leading the way for the past hour or so.

“Are you sure this is the right way? I thought the walk to the kingdom would be more of a path, not a hike through the forest.”

“It is! Well, it’s more of a hidden trail. We’re just, uh, taking a bit of a detour.” Tommy paused.

“What the fuck? Why aren’t we on the trail then? It’s got to be much faster, and I keep tripping on these stupid plants.” Tubbo signed and turned around.

“Listen, there may or may not be some people after me that I don’t want to run into. And even though the trail is pretty unknown, going this way gives us a better chance of staying out of trouble.” Tommy huffed but didn’t retaliate. After all, if these people were bad news, it was probably best to avoid them. Besides, Tommy didn’t really want to piss off his guide. Not that he couldn’t totally take him in a fight, of course, but he doesn’t really know how happy Tubbo is with their deal.

However, Tommy was not one for silence (he has enough of that at home), and after an hour of minimal talking, he was itching for some conversation.

“So Tubbo, what’s your life been like?” Tubbo looked over at him, bemusement evident on his face.

“That’s a weird question for someone you just met a couple hours ago.” Tommy flushed with embarrassment.

“I, um, I don’t get out much.” *That’s the understatement of the lifetime.* Tubbo, however, didn’t dwell on it. Instead, he fell into step with Tommy.

“Well, I was born in the kingdom, and I met Ranboo when we were both around 11. By then, my parents had passed, and I was on my own, as was he. Together, we stumbled upon an old cottage and fixed it up to live in. We were too young to work though, so we got our money from, uh, other sources.” Tommy laughed.

“You’re a thief? That’s so cool! Have you ever gotten caught?” Tubbo laughed as well.

“Not once! Well, I don’t really think that the princes were *trying* to catch us, but I’d still count it as a win.”

“Wait, you stole from royalty? And they *let* you?” Tubbo nodded enthusiastically.

“Yeah! Crazy, right? We had just broken into Prince Wilbur’s room and were taking some of his jewellery when he burst in. I guess he saw that we were just kids, so he didn’t call the guards. Ranboo was so freaked out that he grabbed my arm and teleported us out of there-”

“Teleported?” *There’s someone else in the kingdom with magic?* Tubbo looked up at Tommy, confused, then quickly caught on.

“Oh! Right. Ranboo is an Enderman hybrid. He can teleport, but it takes a lot out of him so he doesn’t do it often.” Tommy nodded, remembering what Dream had taught him about mobs (although he never mentioned that mob *hybrids* could have magic). He motioned for Tubbo to continue the story.

“Anyway, the jewellery sold for more than anything we’d ever stolen before, so we went back to take more. This time, both the princes found us, which led to quite the chase. We got away, of course, and over the years those chases became more and more fun. I’d go as far as to say that we all became friends, sort of.” *Wow, Tubbo’s life is so interesting!* Tommy could only imagine what it would be like to be in the kingdom, let alone run around it with friends.

“What about you?” Tubbo asked, snapping Tommy out of his thoughts.

“Me? Well, there’s not really much to tell. I live with my brother in my cottage. He goes on trips a lot, and I always stay home. That’s really all there is to it. Although, I am pretty good with a sword-”

“Wait. You’ve never been outside that cavern? Like, ever?” Tubbo was baffled. *How has he never left?*

“Nope. My brother says it’s too dangerous for people like me.” *People like him?* Tubbo wanted to ask what he meant, but couldn’t bring himself to. *How could his brother not let him outside that glade? That’s awful!* Tommy was beginning to look uncomfortable, so Tubbo changed the subject.

“The festival isn’t for a few more days, so it would probably be best if we lay low until then. Because we’re taking a more, uh, *scenic route*, we’re still around a half a day out from the kingdom, as opposed to the hour it would normally take.” Tommy was a bit surprised. *We’re only a half-day away? Then why do Dream’s trips always last so long?* Tommy ran his fingers through his hair, stopping his train of thought.

“Okay. So what do we do ‘til then?”

“Well, I’m a bit of a wanted man at the minute, so we shouldn’t really be in the kingdom until the day of. My house is in the forest on the outskirts, so I was thinking that we can stop there, pick up some food, possibly stay the night, then hang out in the woods until then?”

“Sounds good to me. As long as I get to see the lanterns, I’m happy.”

“Perfect.” The two fell into friendly conversation from there, talking about whatever came to mind. Tommy felt happier than he’d ever been. *Is this what it feels like to have a friend?*

If so, Tommy wasn’t sure if he wanted to go back.

Chapter End Notes

aaaaaaand update done!! hope you enjoyed!! leave a kudo or comment if you want i mean its up to you really

see you soon

water wounds

Chapter Summary

hours of walking have led the duo to tubbo's house, where a confused ranboo awaits them. after some conversation, tommy learns more about what the lanterns mean, and the crown of theseus may not be the only way ranboo can get help.

Chapter Notes

hiiiiiiiiiii i am back with another update!!!! hope you enjoy!!! our favourite enderman is making an appearance!!!

also, lovejoy ep, am i right?

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

After a few more hours of walking through the dense trees, Tubbo could tell that they were close to his home. By then, the sky had filled with clouds and rain was pouring down. The house was now in view, but the two kept their leisurely pace since they were already soaked. As they got closer, Tubbo began to wring his hands nervously.

“That’s my house up ahead. I should probably mention, however, that Ranboo may not be in the best shape.”

“What do you mean?”

“Well, during the last chase, there was a bit of an accident. We were on one of the kingdom’s boardwalks with the princes following a bit behind. We took a detour through the crowd and onto the docks to escape them. It worked, and they lost track of us, but Ranboo tripped while running and fell into the ocean. By the time I was able to get him out, the damage had been done. He’s- well, I guess you’ll see in a second. You don’t get, like, grossed out from wounds and stuff, do you?”

“Nope.” Tommy has seen his fair share of blood and scars between the injuries Dream had come home with and the blood his brother had taken from him. However, he wondered how awful the wounds were. *Seeing as Tubbo didn’t go into detail, they must be really bad.*

“Okay, just checking.”

Tubbo opened the door, motioning for Tommy to step inside. Once they were both in, he shut the door and called out.

“Ranboo?”

“Tubbo? Is that you?” A voice replied from the hallway. A moment later, the Ender-hybrid came into view.

The first thing Tommy noticed was just how *tall* the guy was. Looking him up and down, he could see the scars, and *ow*, they looked painful (like, *if I move the wrong way my skin will break*, painful). Patches of burnt-looking skin littered all of his face and neck, along with any other exposed bits of skin. On top of this, the guy looked simultaneously relieved and pissed off to see them.

“Where the hell have you been? It’s been two days, Tubbo! *Two days!* And you come home soaking wet, shivering, and- who’s this?” Tommy flinched slightly as Ranboo noticed him.

“Uh, hi. I’m Tommy.” He waved awkwardly, and Ranboo replied with a confused wave of his own.

“I can explain! So, I was kinda being shot at by Wilbur and Techno, and-”

“What? Tubbo, you agreed not to steal by yourself! You could’ve gotten hurt, or caught, or-”

“Let me finish! So, as I was saying before I was so *rudely interrupted*, I was being chased, and managed to find a small cottage to hide out in, which happened to be Tommy’s. We talked for a bit, and now I’m taking him to see the lantern festival.” Ranboo, to his credit, did not look nearly as surprised about this than Tommy thought he should have. If anything, he looked glad it wasn’t anything more serious, which made Tommy smile a bit. *How often does Tubbo get himself into weird fucking situations?* Ranboo rubbed at his eyes tiredly, then turned to Tommy, who was shivering slightly.

“You’re soaking wet. Here.” He left the entryway, only to return a minute later with warm towels for both Tommy and Tubbo.

“Go dry off, and we can talk. There’s a bedroom on the right, and a fresh set of clothes on the bed, if you feel like changing. They’re mine, so they might be a bit big, but I don’t think Tubbo’s would fit you.” Tommy laughed slightly at Ranboo’s comment.

“Thanks.” Tommy left towards the room. Once the door was shut, Ranboo turned to Tubbo, who was drying off his hair. He opened his mouth to speak, but was cut off by the teen.

“Listen, before you say anything, he’s actually really cool! A bit rough around the edges, sure, but he means well.”

“Tubbo-”

“He’s never gone to the kingdom, okay? *Never*. Like, I’m pretty sure his brother’s a maniac, because he said he’s never left his home before.”

“Wait, never? Like, at all?” Tubbo nodded.

“I know, right? Weird as hell, man. I just- I wanna give him a good time before he goes back.” Ranboo hummed.

“Go get changed, and we can talk when you’re both back. I’ll make some hot chocolate.” Tubbo smiled and left toward his room to quickly change. Ranboo headed to the kitchen and prepared the drinks, placing them on the table as the two sat down. Tommy took a sip and his face lit up.

“Holy fucking shit, this is the best thing I’ve ever tasted.” The three laughed a bit before Ranboo got more serious.

“So, let me get this straight. You helped Tubbo hide, and in exchange, he’s taking you to see the lanterns?”

“Pretty much. Well, I think it's more to do with the fact that I took his crown, but-”

“Wait, crown?” Tubbo paled slightly and sipped his hot chocolate to avoid eye contact.

“Tubbo, do not tell me you stole the crown of prince Theseus-”

“I had to! It was the only thing valuable enough to trade for a potion!” Ranboo’s expression softened as he sighed. Meanwhile, Tommy was confused. *The crown wasn’t Tubbo’s?*

“Wait, who the fuck is Theseus? You told me there were only two princes.” It was Ranboo who answered.

“You don’t know? Well, basically, seventeen years ago, the queen was pregnant with her third child. However, she was very sick, so the kingdom set off to find a magic flower, said to have unimaginable power. They found it, and she was healed and gave birth to prince Theseus. In celebration, the kingdom launched thousands of floating lanterns into the sky. But a couple days later, Theseus disappeared and the queen was killed. That crown is the only thing left of him. That’s also what the lantern festival is for. The original idea behind it is that if Theseus is out there, he’ll see them and will find his way back home.”

Huh. This Theseus dude had the same birthday as me? What a coincidence.

“Wow. That’s grim.”

“Yeah, that’s probably why the princes were so upset that you *stole the crown*, Tubbo.”

“Hey! In my defense, it was the only way to heal you!” Tommy thought for a minute, weighing the pros and cons of his next action in his mind before speaking up.

“It’s not the only way.” The others looked at him, confused.

“What do you mean?” Tommy sighed before standing up. He knelt next to Ranboo’s chair and put a hand on his shoulder.

“Okay, so, I’m probably going to regret this, but you both have been really nice to me, so I’m gonna do it anyway. Just don’t freak out, please?” Tubbo went to talk, but stopped when Tommy began to sing.

And after the first couple lines, he began to *glow*. Both boys were in too much shock to speak when Ranboo’s scars started healing over. By the time Tommy had finished singing, all of the wounds were completely healed, like they never existed in the first place.

Tubbo grabbed his friend’s arm and pulled up his sleeve, and sure enough, every single scar was gone. The two looked up at Tommy, completely and utterly speechless.

“How did you...?” Tommy looked away, slightly nervous.

“Uh, surprise?”

Chapter End Notes

update done!! hope you enjoyed and thank you again to everyone who has read it seriously means to world to me. anywayyyyyy feel free to leave a kudo or comment if you liked it!! be back soon with more

heartfelt conversations

Chapter Summary

tommy is worried about the aftermath of healing ranboo. meanwhile, tubbo and ranboo are worried about tommy.

Chapter Notes

hellooooo!!! hope you are all doing well!!! first off, i cannot believe we hit 4k hits! it means so much to me that people are reading, so thank you! secondly, benchtrio enthusiasts come get your food-

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

It had been a minute since Tommy had healed Ranboo. Standing at the end of the table, with Ranboo and Tubbo still in a shocked silence, he was trying and failing to calm his ever-increasing nerves. *Why did I do that? Now they're gonna hate me, just like Dream said people would. Fuck! Why am I so stupid? No, no. Ranboo deserved to be healed. Just like I deserve whatever they're about to do to me because I revealed my magic.*

As Tommy continued to spiral, across from him Tubbo broke out of his original surprise enough to be able to talk.

“What the fuck.” Tommy flinched as Tubbo spoke, tearing his gaze away from Ranboo to look at him.

“How did you do that?”

“I-” Tommy coughed awkwardly, “I kinda have healing magic?” When the others didn’t respond, he slowly backed towards the door. *May as well get a head start before they begin to hunt me down. At least they don’t know about my blood healing, so they probably won’t try to cut me if they catch me.*

Tubbo stood up as well, with Ranboo close behind him. The two ran toward him, and before Tommy could do anything, they enveloped him in a hug. It took him a second to realize what was going on, but when he did, he relaxed into the embrace. It was so *warm*. It had been so incredibly long since Dream had shown him this much affection openly, and despite his denial of the fact, Tommy was a very clingy person.

After a little while longer (he hated to admit it, but the hug was calming), he pulled away.

“Wait, so, you aren’t mad? Or, like, weirded out?” Ranboo looked at him, both perplexed and concerned.

“No? You basically just saved my life. I don’t even know how to thank you.” His expression looked awfully sincere, which just added to Tommy’s confusion. *Thank me? But it was nothing. I didn’t even cut myself for him, he doesn’t owe me anything.* However, when Tommy voiced this (minus the cutting part- they didn’t need to know that his blood could heal quite yet), Ranboo shook his head.

“You didn’t have to heal me. Hell, you barely even *know* me! Not many people with access to your level of power would do that for someone, especially without asking for something in return.”

“Huh. Well, I guess you’re lucky that I am not your average person, but instead quite above them.” All three laughed before Tubbo lightly grabbed Tommy’s arm and led him to sit on the couch between him and Ranboo.

“How are you feeling? Can I get you anything? I know Ranboo usually gets pretty drained after his teleportation.” Tommy smiled, both amused and touched by Tubbo’s concern, but shook his head.

“I’m fine, Big Man. I’ve been doing this for years, and besides, it’s not as bad as- nothing. It’s just not bad.” Ranboo and Tubbo glanced at each other due to his slip-up, but said nothing, thankfully.

“Alright, if you’re sure. Let us know if anything changes, though, okay?”

“Will do.” After a lapse of awkward silence, Tommy spoke up.

“Okay, I can practically see the gears turning in your heads. So, ask me whatever you want to know and I’ll do my best to answer.” The two jumped at the opportunity.

“How long have you had your magic?”

“My whole life. I was born with it.”

“How does it feel when you use it?”

“Uh, powerful, I guess? Oh! And *warm*, like summertime.” Ranboo nodded.

“I can see that. When you healed me, it felt like I was basking in the sunlight.” Tommy smirked.

“Well, you could say I’m quite radiant.” Tubbo groaned fondly as the others laughed.

“Do you have any other abilities?”

“Nope, just healing. But because it’s so powerful, I don’t really need much else.” Tubbo thought for a second before asking his next question.

“Is that why you never left your cottage before?” Tommy huffed and ran his fingers through his hair.

“Yeah. My brother is very protective of me, and he doesn’t want me getting hurt. He says that if people found out about my magic, they’d try to hunt me down or capture me so they could have my power for themselves. So, I just stay home. It’s safer that way.” Ranboo went quiet for a moment.

“Do you really believe that?” He asked carefully. Tommy sighed deeply before replying.

“Yes? I mean, all my life it wasn’t even a question. But, since I’ve left, I’m not so sure what to think anymore.” He thought for a moment before wincing.

“Sorry, I don’t really have an answer for you just yet.”

“That’s okay! It takes time to sort stuff like this out.” Ranboo said. Tommy smiled gratefully.

“Thanks. It’s just- it’s weird. I’ve never really just sat and thought about it before, but now that I have, everything just seems more complicated.” Tubbo nodded in understanding before asking his question.

“When this is all over, do you want to go back?”

“Asking me all the tough questions, eh?” Tommy laughed shakily before continuing.

“I- I don’t know. I have had the most fun I’ve ever had today, and I haven’t even been to L’manburg yet. And if this is what I’ve been missing out on, I don’t think I can go back. I don’t think I can handle being alone again now that I know what it’s like to be *with* people. But... my brother. He’ll be heartbroken if he ever finds out I even left in the first place, not to mention if I don’t go back...” Tommy trailed off, fidgeting with his hands nervously. Tubbo put a comforting hand on his shoulder and Ranboo pulled him in for a half-hug, both of which he appreciated greatly. While Tommy was enjoying their comfort, the two were looking at each other, seemingly having a conversation with their expressions. Tubbo cleared his throat and spoke.

“Well, either way, you won’t be alone.”

“What do you mean?”

“If you chose to stay out here, you could live with us.” Tubbo paused to look at Ranboo, who nodded along, before continuing.

“And, if you go back, we’ll come visit you. I know where your house is, and we’ll be careful so your brother doesn’t find out, if that’s what you’re worried about.” Tears began to form in Tommy’s eyes, and he quickly wiped them away.

“You’d really do that for me?”

“Of course! We’re friends, aren’t we?”

“We are?” The two faltered at Tommy’s words.

“I mean, if you don’t want to be, that’s okay-”

“No! I just, uh, haven’t really had friends before. It’s nice.” The duo sighed in relief. Eventually, Ranboo got up from the couch and stood in front of the others.

“So! Not to ruin the touching moment, but the rain has seemed to clear up for the time being. Do you wanna go in the garden for a bit before it starts up again?” Tubbo smiled and stood up.

“Hell yeah! I gotta check on my bees.” They headed towards the door, and Tubbo looked back to Tommy, who was still processing their conversation on the couch.

“You coming?” Tommy looked over at him, a wide grin breaking out on his face.

“Yeah. I am.”

Chapter End Notes

aaaand update done! hope you enjoyed! lowkey proud of this one but anyway-

leave a kudo or comment if you want to vibe :D

see you soon!

flaws

Chapter Summary

ranboo accidentally demonstrates his power, leaving him a bit worn out. tommy offers to help him feel better, leading to some revelations about tommy's life at home.

Chapter Notes

helloooo i am back!! sorry it took so long but school decided to be extra not good this week. anyway, thank you so much for 6k hits!!! i genuinely cannot believe people are reading lol

anyway here we go more benchtrio bonding

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Tommy had to admit, their garden was beautiful. It was full of cornflowers, alliums, and other colourful plants. Not only that, but there was an abundance of bees flying among them, collecting their pollen.

Tubbo was tending to the beehive, collecting honey while the bees weren't inside. Meanwhile, Ranboo was laying in the grass next to a flowerbed, staring at the sky. Even with the sun hidden behind the grey clouds, it was breathtaking.

Tommy walked over to Ranboo, who looked up at him as he took a seat next to the hybrid.

"Nice garden you've got here." Ranboo smiled.

"Thanks. I find it really peaceful, but I think Tubbo's just in it for the bees." He pointed over to Tubbo, who had a bee perched on his finger, which made them both laugh. Tommy laid back onto the grass.

"Y'know, I have a garden like this at home. Well, it's more of a small field, really."

"Yeah? Was it just grass, then?"

"No, you dickhead, there were dandelions."

"Aren't those considered weeds?" Ranboo laughed as Tommy elbowed him playfully.

“Shut up, man! Anyway, I love it when they go all fuzzy and shit, ‘cos then I can make a wish and blow them out.” Tommy said fondly. The garden reminded him of when he was younger, and Dream would take him out to play. They would often practice his sword fighting, but after every lesson, they’d lay together in the grass. They’d both take a dandelion and make a wish before blowing it out. Tommy missed those times, when it felt like Dream really cared about him (it’s not that he thinks that Dream doesn’t care- of course he does! He keeps Tommy safe, and he’s forever grateful for it).

Even after those days stopped, Tommy would find himself in the field, blowing out as many of the weeds as possible in hopes that his wishes would one day come true.

“What do you wish for?” Ranboo’s question broke him out of his thoughts.

“If I tell you, it won’t come true, will it?” Tommy smirked as Ranboo groaned.

“Fine. I guess you’re right.” Just then, a boom of thunder shook the sky.

“Ah!” Ranboo flinched, gripping onto Tommy’s arm. Before he could blink, purple particles clouded his vision, and in a split second, they were inside the cottage.

“What the fuck was that?” As Tommy spoke, Ranboo quickly let go of his arm.

“Sorry! It’s a reflex. From the, uh, thunder. Thunder means rain, so…”

“I get it dude, but holy shit! That was so cool!”

“You really think so? I mean, it’s no healing power-”

“Nope. Don’t even go there. That was amazing.” Ranboo smiled shyly at Tommy’s comment.

“Thanks. I guess it is kinda cool. The only thing is that I get pretty worn out after.” Tommy was quick to put a steadying hand onto the hybrid’s shoulder.

“I can help you, if you want. My healing includes restoration.”

“No, I’m fine. Thank you though. You don’t have to waste your power on small things like that.”

“Okay, if you’re sure. But don’t worry, it’s not a waste. I’m used to using them a lot.” Ranboo furrowed his brows.

“What do you mean?” The door opened, and Tubbo came inside, sitting on a nearby chair. The two nodded at him before Tommy continued.

“Whenever my brother comes home, I always sing for him. Not to heal, though, but just to restore, I guess? It makes him feel better. More relaxed.” Ranboo hummed, skeptical, and looked towards Tubbo, who seemed to be having the same doubts as him.

“Does he… often come home stressed?” Tommy nodded.

“Yeah, almost always. Either that, or he’s upset with me.” The duo felt a wave of anger flash through them, but kept it from showing as to not make Tommy distressed. Nonetheless, the way Tommy referred to his brother’s behaviour made them both worry that the teen felt that it was *normal*.

“Why would he be upset with you?” Tommy huffed at Ranboo’s question like the answer was obvious.

“Well, I don’t know if you’ve noticed, but I’m a bit annoying. And loud. And I’m not the best at most things, and I always make stupid and rude comments-” Ranboo cut him off.

“You’re not annoying.” Tommy stopped his rant to look at Ranboo, confusion written all over his face. Tubbo spoke up, grabbing their attention.

“Yeah, I know I’ve only known you for like, a day, but you’re one of the most selfless people I’ve met in my life. You healed Ranboo without second thought, and you did it even with the risk that I wouldn’t follow through with my end of our deal. But I will, and do you know why?” Tommy shook his head.

“It’s because I enjoy your company. We both do. You’re funny, you’re nice, and while you can be a bit much at times, that doesn’t outweigh the good things about you.”

“I- it doesn’t? But-”

“No. Everyone has flaws, Tommy. I say the most random shit and have trouble processing emotions, and Ranboo has a hard time talking to people he doesn’t know and is a bit of a pushover.”

“Hey!” Ranboo said, glaring at Tubbo lightheartedly.

“My point is, we don’t make each other feel bad about their flaws. It’s a part of us. If you love someone, you love *all* of them.” Tommy nodded, dazed. He doesn’t get why they care so much, but he’s thankful anyway. The issue was, however, that what they were saying made *sense*. They have flaws and weaknesses, yet they don’t get upset with one another over it.

For the third time that day, Tommy wondered why Dream’s actions and teachings seemed to be so different than how things actually were. But, those thoughts made his brain hurt and his stomach fill with dread, so he pushes them aside.

The others seem to understand how Tommy is feeling, so they change the subject. After another hour or two of talking, Tubbo points out how dark it is outside.

“Okay, so, here’s what I’m thinking. Tommy, you and I sleep here tonight and leave tomorrow morning. From there, we can hang out in the forest and camp for a night or two before we go to L’manburg. Ranboo, if you want, you can come with us, or meet us at the festival the day of?”

“I think I’ll meet you there on the day of, just in case it rains while you guys are out.” Tubbo nodded.

“Good idea.” He turned to Tommy.

“What do you think?”

“Sounds good to me.”

“Perfect.” He left the living room, only to return a minute later with some pyjamas, which he handed to Tommy.

“You can sleep in the room on the right, okay?”

“Yup! Mind if I head to bed now? It’s been a long day.” The duo wished Tommy goodnight and headed off to bed as well. Before they shut their bedroom door, however, Tommy spoke.

“Friends.”

“Huh?” Ranboo asked, poking his head out the door from behind Tubbo.

“Earlier, you asked what I wished for. I wished for friends, and to see the lanterns. But, I think if the wish comes true, I don’t have to keep it a secret anymore, yeah?” Ranboo grinned widely.

“Yeah, I think you’re right.” Tubbo looked up at Tommy and smiled.

“Have a good sleep, bestie.” Tommy groaned, walking back toward his room.

“Nevermind, forget I said anything ever!”

“Goodnight Tommy!” Ranboo said over Tubbo’s laughter. All three of them fell asleep within minutes, happiness lulling them off to a deep sleep.

Alone in the forest, shielded by the dark, a man with a mask watches the cottage silently, planning his next move.

Chapter End Notes

aaaaand update done!! hope you enjoyed!!! leave a kudo or comment if you want to vibe!! i'll see you soon so stay tuned!! :D <3

goodbyes

Chapter Summary

the trio enjoys a nice breakfast together before tommy and tubbo head off by themselves. during this, tommy reveals more about his power. in the forest, a masked man plans some more, and two princes may be closer to their target than they thought.

Chapter Notes

hellooooo i am back!! i wanna say a huge thank you for over 7k hits!!!! love you all so much

also if you want to follow my twitter i will start posting shit about this work along with other stuff if people actually follow!! its @sourcherryfrog

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

When Tubbo woke up, the sun had just begun to peak above the horizon. He looked over to Ranboo, who was sleeping soundly beside him. Smiling, he got out of bed quietly before making his way over to his own room to check on Tommy.

Peeking his head through the door, he found the magical teen out like a light, pillows and blankets sprawled across the bed. Laughing lightly, he headed to the kitchen to make some pancakes for them. Ranboo walked in while he was mixing the batter, rubbing his eyes groggily.

“Good morning!” Ranboo smiled before responding.

“I don’t understand how you’re always so happy in the mornings. Your sleep patterns are awful.” he leaned over Tubbo’s shoulder, looking into the bowl.

“Ooo, pancakes?”

“Yup!”

“Need any help?” Tubbo laughed.

“No thanks, I quite like my food *without* a layer of soot.”

“Hey! That only happened twice! But *fine*, I’ll set the table then.” The two worked in comfortable silence, enjoying each others company and the peace along with it. After Ranboo

was done, he looked over to Tubbo, who was pouring the last of the batter into the pan.

“Hey, do you know where I put the dried flowers?” Tubbo thought for a second before answering.

“I’m pretty sure they’re in your top drawer. Why?”

“Thanks!” Ranboo said as he left towards his room.

Looking out the window, Tubbo judged it was probably time to wake up Tommy. He flipped his pancake once more for good measure before setting it on a plate. Walking over to his room, he knocked lightly on the door before going inside. Tommy snored peacefully, undisturbed by Tubbo’s entrance. *Time to fix that.*

“Rise and shine, you sleepy fuck!” Tubbo yelled, jumping on top of Tommy, who groaned sleepily.

“What the hell, Dre- oh. Tubbo! What the fuck, man?!” He said over Tubbo’s cackling. He went to shove the boy off the bed, but Tubbo gripped his arm, making both of them fall to the floor.

“Everything okay in there?” Ranboo called from the hall.

“No! Tubbo’s being a bitch!” Tommy was fighting his way out of the blankets, which had twisted around him in his fall. Tubbo laughed before helping him up.

“Let’s go have breakfast, c’mon.” The two met Ranboo at the table, who had already placed pancakes on each plate.

“Holy shit, pancakes! I haven’t had these in years.” They began eating, Tommy not fully swallowing before speaking.

“These are delicious! Thanks, Ranboo.”

“Actually, I made them.” Tubbo said, smirking around his forkful of food. Tommy made a face.

“Well, in that case, I’d work on my cooking skills if I were you.”

“Wha- hey! You just said they were good!” Tommy laughed. The three enjoyed their breakfast, making idle conversation before Tubbo went off to pack and get ready.

“I cooked, so have fun doing the cleaning.” Ranboo got up and began gathering the dishes, as did Tommy.

“You don’t have to help, Tommy. You’re our guest.”

“Too bad. I clean all the time at home, this is fine.” Ranboo sighed, but allowed him to help.

When they were done, Ranboo perked up.

“Oh! I forgot! I wanted to give you this.” He pulled a dried allium out of his pocket and gave it to Tommy, who held it gently.

“Thanks. Can I, uh, ask what it is?”

“It’s an allium. It’s been pressed, though, so it’ll last for years. It’s just a bit fragile.”

“Thanks, Ranboo. I’ll keep it safe.” Carefully, Tommy placed it in a small pocket of his bag. While doing so, his hand ran over an empty glass vial.

“Oh, that reminds me! I have something for you too.” Pulling out the vial, he quickly ran over to Tubbo’s room to grab his sword.

“Ranboo, I can’t find my guitar. Can you help?” Tubbo whined from the other room as Tommy returned with his sword.

“Give me a minute, I gotta go help him.” Tommy nodded and raised his sword to his wrist as Ranboo walked down the hall. Inhaling deeply, he cut along his skin and let his blood drip into the small vial. Once it was mostly full, he sealed it and grabbed a cloth from his bag. Ranboo walked in after Tommy had finished cleaning off his sword. As soon as he saw the blood, he rushed over, grabbing Tommy’s wrist.

“Are you okay? What happened?” He opened a cabinet and pulled out some bandages, wrapping up the wound. As he did so, he noticed an abundance of thin scars on Tommy’s wrists, pausing his movements.

“Tommy...” The teen was confused by the hybrid’s concern before realizing that he never mentioned the other element to his power.

“Oh! It’s not what you think! It’s not just my singing that heals, but my blood too.” Strangely enough, this did not seem to calm Ranboo down nearly as much as he thought it would.

“So, you’ve just been... cutting yourself?”

“No, my brother usually does it.”

“What?!” Tubbo walked into the kitchen, his breath hitching when he saw bandages.

“Shit! What happened? Tommy, are you okay?”

“I’m fine! Why are you both so worried?”

“Because you’re *bleeding* from *cutting yourself*, which is something that *your brother does to you*, apparently on a regular basis!” Tubbo looked up at Tommy, distressed.

“He what?!”

“Listen, you guys don’t understand! My brother, he goes on trips a lot, yeah? And on those trips, he gets hurt, badly. So I just give him some of my power so he can heal himself without me.”

“Tommy, that’s-” Tommy pulled his wrist out of Ranboo’s hold.

“Listen, can we just, like, not talk about it? I’m fine, okay?” The two sighed, but let the topic go (for now).

“Okay, fine. I’m all packed up for the trip, so if you’re ready, we can go now.”

“I’m all packed too.” The three said their goodbyes, Ranboo pulling them each in for a hug. Tommy slipped the vial into the enderman’s pocket. *For later, just in case.* After waving goodbye one last time, Tommy and Tubbo set out into the forest.

The masked man watched their goodbyes through the trees. He realized that this would be much harder than he previously thought, as Tommy now had connections to the outside world, and would not return to him without a fight. Oh, well. *Guess I’ll have to cut the ties first.*

About half an hour into their walk, Tommy brought up the allium. He pulled it out of his bag, explaining what happened to Tubbo.

“Why did he give it to me? I mean, it’s nice and all, but I don’t really get it.”

“Do you know the language of flowers?” Tubbo asked.

“Uh, no?”

“Well, basically, it assigns meaning to different flowers. So that allium you’re holding represents unity, patience, and good luck on anything you do.”

“Oh.” Tommy held the flower close to his chest.

“Yeah, flowers are kinda how Ranboo shows that he cares.” Tommy smiled at Tubbo’s comment.

“Is there a meaning to all flowers then?” Tubbo nodded.

“Yeah, most of them. Why? Got something in mind?”

“Mhm. What flower means bitch boy, but in an endearing way?”

The duo’s laughter carried slightly to their surrounding areas. Nearby, a pair of princes looked over at each other, hopeful, and headed towards the sound of laughter that they knew to be their thieving friend.

Chapter End Notes

aaaaand update finished!! hope you enjoyed!! i wrote a lot today so expect another one soon :) leave a comment or kudo if you wish and have a good day!!

also if you want to follow my twitter!! its @sourcherryfrog

just realized i also put it up top but i forgot so oops but im to lazy to take it out now

first impressions

Chapter Summary

ranboo finds himself with an unexpected visitor at his home. meanwhile, tommy and tubbo are found by the princes, who are in no way happy to see them.

Chapter Notes

helloooooo!!!! yes it is me with an early update :0 ikr right? anyway thank you sooooo much for over 8.8k hits AND over 500 kudos!!! im seriously gonna cry-

also lowkey this is probably my favourite chapter so far-

anyway, happy pride month!!! i know im a bit late but i hope all my fellow lgbtq+ members have a great time and know that you are valid!!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Even though Tommy and Tubbo had left a while ago, Dream was still in the same place as before. He was having trouble figuring out how to convince Tommy that he should come home and stay there (after all, it was much easier to manipulate someone when they had no one else but you).

Just then, the cottage door opened, and an enderman hybrid walked out. Dream remembered how Tubbo was looking for a potion to heal his partner in crime, yet here he was, in perfect health. Dream's grip tightened on his sword when he realized that Tommy must have healed him. He took a steadying breath, trying to let go of his growing anger. *I can use this.*

Ranboo was in the garden when he heard a voice call out.

"Hello? Is anyone home?"

"Yup, give me a second!" He headed towards the front of the house, only to be met with Dream. He swallowed nervously. The rumours of Dream around the kingdom were not exactly pleasant and his mask didn't help. Ranboo had no gauge for how the man was feeling.

"Hello. I'm looking for Tubbo. This is his home, right?" Ranboo nodded.

"Is he home?"

“No, uh, he left a while ago.” Dream hummed.

“Pity. I needed to talk to him about the healing potion he wanted.”

“Healing potion?”

“Mhm. He said he needed it for his friend, Ranboo. Which, I assume, is you?” Ranboo nodded once more. Dream looked him over.

“Hm. Well, you don’t *look* injured. So what happened, Ranboo?” The hybrid took a step back.

“Listen, I- Tubbo isn’t here right now, so I think you should go...” Dream took a step forward.

“Was it Tommy?” Ranboo froze, then laughed anxiously.

“Wh-what? I’m sorry, I don’t know who you’re talking about-” A dark chuckle cut him off.

“Don’t play dumb with me. I know he’s been here.” Dream pulled out his sword and pointed it at Ranboo’s neck.

“Now, why don’t you tell me where to find him?”

Tommy and Tubbo had been walking and chatting for some time before they heard a telltale sign that they were being followed: a twig snapping. Tubbo slowed slightly and subtly looked around so as to not arouse suspicion. He locked eyes with Tommy, who seemed to have noticed the sound as well. They were in a bit of an opening between the trees, which was unfortunately the perfect place for an ambush.

“Wil!” someone whispered harshly.

“Sorry! It’s not like they heard, anyway.” Another voice responded. Tubbo glanced at Tommy, fearful. He lowered his voice and leaned a bit closer to Tommy.

“Okay, so we’re definitely being followed.”

“Yeah, no shit. I heard someone say the name Wil.” Tubbo paled.

“Fuck. I bet it’s the princes. Okay, I’m gonna count down. When I get to one, go hide behind that big tree over there while I try to reason with them.”

“What? No! We can take em’! I’m very good with my sword-“ Tubbo cut him off.

“Listen, I’m sure you’re great and I mean this in the nicest way possible, but there’s no way you can beat Technoblade in a fight.” Tommy opened his mouth to argue, but Tubbo spoke before he could.

“Just- please.” Tommy sighed.

“Fine. Start counting, I think they’re coming closer.” Tubbo nodded and opened his palm, lowering his fingers. When he got to one, Tommy took off for the tree.

“Shit, one of them is getting away!”

“Don’t worry about that right now! We only need Tubbo.” The princes burst into the clearing. Before Tubbo could even say anything, Technoblade had an arrow aimed right at his head. Tubbo gulped.

“Hello, your highnesses! Lovely day, isn’t it?” He said nervously. Wilbur looked down at him, unimpressed.

“Where’s the crown, Tubbo?”

“O-oh! Well, you see, I actually don’t have it right now-”

“*What?*” Technoblade said sharply.

“What do you mean you don’t have it?” Wilbur scanned the teen, and true to his word, he didn’t seem to have the crown on him. *Damn it.*

“Well, it’s a funny story really...”

“Is that so? Well you better make it quick, because it’s your life on the line.” Wilbur glared at his brother’s words.

“Tech! We agreed on no murder.”

“That was when I was under the impression that he still had the crown-” He ignored his brother’s anger and turned to Tubbo once more.

“Listen, there is nothing that I’d love more than to throw you in jail for the rest of your life, but we need that crown back. So, just tell us where it is, and we might be willing to take a year or two off your sentence.”

Meanwhile, behind the tree, Tommy was growing more and more angry. *Who do these assholes think they are?* Without thinking, he ran into the area, sword drawn. Technoblade quickly switched his bow out for an axe, grabbing Tubbo and holding him in front of him with the axe at his throat.

“Let him go, dickhead.” Wilbur looked both annoyed and amused at the teen’s demand.

“Who the hell are you?” Tommy faltered for a second. Glancing around the trees, he quickly formed a plan.

“I’m Prince Tommy. Of... Logstedshire.” Wilbur raised his eyebrows in disbelief.

“Logstedshire.” he deadpanned.

“Yup.” Wilbur hummed.

“I don’t think I’ve ever heard of Logstedshire. Have you, Techno?” His twin huffed, amused, and shook his head.

“Well, that’s pretty embarrassing for you. And extremely disrespectful to my people. However, I’d be willing to let you off the hook if you let go of Tubbo.”

“Ah, I see. And how do you know him?” *Shit.*

“Uh, he’s... my guide! For the lantern festival.” The princes did not look convinced.

“You hired a thief as your guide?” Technoblade asked.

“Of course! Who else would know the kingdom better than someone who’s spent his whole life running around it?” Wilbur had to admit, this kid was a quick thinker. *How am I gonna catch him off guard?*

“Y’know what, I think I *have* heard of Logstedshire!” Both Tubbo and Tommy’s eyes widened.

“What are you talking about?” Techno looked toward his brother, confused.

“Don’t you remember, Tech? They raise some of the strongest, most skilled swordspeople in the world! Dad used to tell us about how powerful they were, *especially* members of the royal family.” Technoblade, finally catching on, smirked.

“You’re right. Say, Prince Tommy, how would you like to duel? If you win, we let both you and Tubbo go. If you lose, we take both of you to jail.” Tubbo paled.

“Tommy, wait-”

“You’re on, bitch.” Techno grinned and pushed Tubbo towards Wilbur, who grabbed the teen and told him to sit next to him. Tommy was gripping his sword, adrenaline pumping, and the two began circling each other.

Wilbur looked over to Tubbo, who was wringing his hands nervously. He frowned. He may have stolen his lost brother’s crown, but it was still Tubbo, and he didn’t want his friend to be uncomfortable.

“He looks like a strong kid. Good stance, too.” He said, pointing at Tommy.

“Yeah. Apparently he’s pretty good, or so he keeps telling me.” The two laughed.

“I’m sure he is. However, I’ll have to side with my brother on this one. 5 gold pieces says he wins.” Tubbo smiled.

“I’ll take that bet. Tommy is more than he seems.” Wilbur stuck out his hand, and Tubbo shook it.

“You don’t think that, like, Prince Techno will kill him, do you?” Wilbur laughed softly.

“No, I won’t let him. I’m the older one, so he has to listen to me.” Technoblade turned and glared at him.

“By two minutes! Also, can you guys shut up? I’m trying to concentrate.” Tommy laughed.

“Aw, what’s wrong? Afraid they’ll distract you from me kicking your ass?” Tommy quickly lunged at the prince, who easily dodged. Techno struck his axe back, weapons clashing as the two continued to stab and swing. After a couple minutes, Techno slashed his axe expertly at the teen, eager to finally win. Tommy, however, surprised him by blocking.

“Nice. I’ve got to admit, you’ve lasted longer than I thought you would.” Tommy smirked, proud of himself, before the prince kicked at his legs, knocking him down. He stood over him, axe aimed at his face.

“Unfortunately, you’re nowhere near my level.” Tommy groaned, throwing his head back onto the ground.

“Okay, okay, you don’t have to be a prick about it.” he looked back up at the prince, eyebrows raised.

“Best two out of three?” Techno laughed before growing serious.

“No. The deal was one duel.” Wilbur clapped, catching their attention. He and Tubbo walked over to the two, Tubbo helping Tommy up.

“Holy shit! That was amazing! Usually people that duel with Prince Techno lose in like, a second, but you actually lasted a few minutes!” Tommy grinned.

“See? Told you I was good with a sword.”

“I’ve got to admit, you did well.” The two looked over at Wilbur as he spoke.

“However, since Tommy did lose, we get to take you both back to the kingdom for some well-earned jail time. Oh, and Tubbo, you owe me 5 gold.” Tubbo scowled, digging through his bag, handing 5 gold pieces to the prince. Meanwhile, Tommy was forming a plan.

“We won’t be going to jail. Unless, you *don’t* want your crown back?” The twins looked over at him, narrowing their eyes.

“What’re you saying?” Technoblade asked, hand resting on his axe handle.

“Well, *Tubbo* may not know where the crown is, but *I* do. Don’t worry though, I’d be happy to give it back to you! That is, if you don’t arrest us.” Wilbur furrowed his brows.

“Okay. Give it to us, and we’ll let you go.” Tommy rolled his eyes.

“See, that’s the thing: there’s no guarantee you’ll follow through with your end of the deal. And there is no way in hell that I’m missing those lanterns.” Wilbur went to argue, but Tommy cut him off.

“Here’s what I’m thinking: you let us enjoy the festival, and I’ll give you back the crown when it’s done. Also, you can’t arrest us. Oh! And you have to clear Tubbo and Ranboo of all past crimes.” The princes looked at each other, debating. After Techno nodded, Wilbur stepped forward and held his hand out towards Tommy.

“Fine. But we’re sticking with you the whole time.”

Tommy smiled, satisfied, and shook his hand.

Chapter End Notes

aaand update done!! hope you enjoyed!! leave a comment or kudo if you wanna vibe :)

<3

also!! follow my twitter @sourcherryfrog if you want for updates and sneak peaks and shit

see you soon!!

lower the tension

Chapter Summary

after their initial meetup, tommy and tubbo take some time to talk through the tension with the princes.

Chapter Notes

helloooooo i am back!!!! first off, cant believe we hit 10k hits and 600 kudos you all make me so happy and i cant thank you enough

second of all, have a good day/night and ilysm

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Tommy and Tubbo were walking through the trees, with the twins following close behind. Tensions were still somewhat high between them, so not much conversation had occurred.

Eventually, they reached an open grove and decided to take a break. The duo sat down together and pulled out the food that Ranboo had packed for them. Tommy began to eat, but Tubbo paused, apprehensive. He looked over to the princes, who were sitting nearby, empty handed. They may not be on the best of terms, but they were still his *friends*. He got up and walked toward them, food in hand.

“Um, do you guys want some food? We have more than enough.” They looked up at him, smiling slightly.

“Thanks. That would be great.” Wilbur responded. Tubbo motioned them to follow and headed back to where Tommy was. Sitting down awkwardly, they began to eat. Tommy, noticing the tension, began talking in an attempt to ease it.

“So, Wilbur and Technoblade, right?” Tubbo elbowed him.

“Tommy, they’re the princes. You have to address them as such.” Tommy grinned.

“Technically speaking, I am not a part of L’manburg, so I don’t have to address them as shit.” Wilbur laughed, both surprised and amused at the teen’s lack of respect.

“Where are you from then, Tommy? And please don’t say ‘Logstedshire’, because we all know that was a bullshit excuse.” Tommy glared.

“Fine. I live in the forest with my brother.” Techno hummed.

“How’d you and Tubbo meet then?” Tubbo blushed, embarrassed.

“I, uh, kinda broke into his home?” The twins laughed.

“Why would you do that? Was the abundance of palace jewels not enough for you?” Wilbur asked lightheartedly.

“Ha ha, no. It was because I needed somewhere to hide after yesterday.” Just like that, the tentative peace broke. Both twins were scowling at the ground, and Tubbo looked away sheepishly before speaking.

“I’m sorry. I really am.” Sighing, Wilbur asked the question that he’d been wondering about since the vault was broken into.

“Why’d you take it? The crown, I mean.” Tubbo inhaled deeply before replying,

“A couple days ago, during our last real chase, Ranboo fell into the water.” Both princes looked at Tubbo, worried.

“I went to go get a healing potion for him, but I was turned away because I needed something more valuable for it. Which led me to taking the crown. Sorry again, by the way.” Wilbur put a hand on his shoulder.

“It’s not okay that you took it, but I understand why you did. Maybe if we had just asked you earlier, all of this could’ve been avoided. Sorry for being a bit of a prick.” Tubbo shook his head.

“No! I stole the one thing you guys have left of your brother. You deserve to be mad at me.” Techno nodded.

“I agree, and I am 100% still pissed. However, I guess I get why you did it.” Tubbo smiled at Techno’s words.

“Thanks.”

Tommy, ready to move on, spoke between mouthfuls of food.

“Does this mean all that tension between you guys is done? Because I gotta be honest, that was a bitch to deal with.” They all laughed before Wilbur grinned at him.

“Well, maybe for Tubbo, but we still know next to nothing about you. Like, for example, where’d you learn to be good with a sword?” Techno snorted.

“I wouldn’t say that he’s *good*, more like *moderately skilled*.” Tommy glared.

“I practice a lot in my free time, since there’s not much else to do at home. And *excuse you*, but I definitely would’ve won if you didn’t do that cheating leg kick.” Techno rolled his eyes.

“It wasn’t cheating, it was *strategy*.” Wilbur and Tubbo exchanged glances, smirking.

“I don’t know Tech, it looked a bit like cheating to me.” Tubbo nodded at Wilbur’s words.

“Yeah! Why did you do it? Were you intimidated by Tommy’s skills?” Technoblade had to physically hold himself back from punching the three in their smug faces. None of them seemed to notice, as they were too busy laughing with each other. He huffed, amused.

“Okay fine, you held up pretty well against me, considering your unstable stance and wild swings.” Tommy glared.

“Oh, fuck you, man-”

“However, if you really wanna get better, I *suppose* I can teach you.” Tommy lit up. After all, it had been so long since Dream had actually done a lesson with him, or even just sparred for fun.

“Really?!” Technoblade nodded.

“Yup. But not until your hand is healed up. Don’t wanna damage it further than it already is.” He gestured towards Tommy’s arm, which was still tightly wrapped in bandages from the palm to the elbow. Tubbo furrowed his brows quizzically, looking down at Tommy’s hand.

“Tommy, can I talk to you for a second?” The teen nodded, and the duo left the princes with the promise to be back in a second. As soon as they were out of earshot, Tubbo stopped.

“Does your healing, like, not work on yourself?” Tommy tilted his head, confused.

“No, it does. Why?”

“Why haven’t you healed your hand yet?” Tommy’s good hand gripped the bandages tightly. *Because Dream hasn’t told me I could, and I’m not allowed to unless he says so.*

“Oh. Well, I just- I don’t know.” Tubbo did not look convinced. He analyzed Tommy’s weird behaviour, connecting the dots.

“Are you... not supposed to?” Tommy looked up at him in shock.

“What the fuck?! How did you- fine. Yeah, you’re right. My brother tells me when to heal or not. It’s for my own good.” Tubbo grimaced. *If his brother really cared about ‘his own good’, he wouldn’t cut him for his power, let alone not let him heal afterward. Hypocrite.*

“Tommy, it’s *your* power, and you’re not a little kid. You’re mature enough to make your own decisions.” Tommy went to speak, but Tubbo cut him off.

“I’m not forcing you to heal, because at the end of the day it’s your decision, and I’ll respect whatever you choose. Just, think about what I said.” Tubbo turned to leave, but Tommy grabbed his arm.

“Wait! Could you maybe keep the healing power thing between us? I don’t really want to tell anyone else unless I have to.” *Dream would be furious if he knew I told anyone in the first place.*

“Of course. I wasn’t gonna tell them anyway. Like I said, they’re yours to do whatever you want with.” The teen smiled at him before heading back to join the others. Tommy stood still, glancing down at his wounded hand. He unwrapped the bandages and stared at the cut. In the back of his mind, Dream’s voice echoed, expressing disappointment and frustration. Wrapping his hand up again, he ran back towards the group. *Later. I’ll heal later.*

When he sat down, Wilbur put a hand on his shoulder, noticing his uncertainty. He leaned closer as Tubbo talked with Technoblade.

“You okay?” Wilbur whispered.

“Hm? Oh, yeah, I’m good.” Wilbur raised his eyebrows. *What did they talk about over there that made Tommy uncomfortable?* Whatever it was, he knew that it wasn’t really his place to pry.

“Alright, if you’re sure.” During a lapse of silence between the two, Wilbur remembered how Tommy had mentioned that he’d never been to the kingdom before.

“Do you, uh, wanna hear some stories about L’manburg? I know you said that you don’t know much about it, so…” The teen’s face lit up as he frantically nodded. Wilbur grinned warmly and began talking about his favourite parts of the kingdom, along with some stories about growing up in the castle. As he spoke, Tommy’s enthusiasm grew, asking more and more questions about Wilbur’s life. As time went on, he realized that this conversation almost felt natural, like he was talking to someone he’d known all his life. It was almost… *brotherly*. And while that thought made his chest tighten, it also felt *right*, like this was how things were meant to be.

Huh. Weird.

Chapter End Notes

aaaand update done!! hope you enjoyed!! next chapter will probably have some sbi kids bonding + tubbo

also mother knows best reprise anyone ;)

'family' reunion

Chapter Summary

dream continues to bother ranboo. meanwhile, together in the forest, the four bond further. later, tommy is reunited with someone he didn't quite want to see.

Chapter Notes

helloooooo!!!! i am back and i hope you are all doing well!!! first off, i wanna thank everyone for 11k!!!! currently so happy :D

second off, for those who were concerned about ranboo, have fun

enjoy!!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Ranboo was not having the best time. When Dream had pointed that sword at his throat, the hybrid was quick to teleport away. Dream, however, anticipated that, and had tackled him as he did so. He had tried to teleport to the outskirts of the kingdom, but the attack had made him lose his concentration, throwing off his trajectory. They were still in the forest, only now they were closer to L'manburg. Ranboo tried to struggle against Dream's grip, but he was weak from using his power.

"Did you really think that was going to work? I have my fair share of experiences with magical brats like you." Dream laughed as Ranboo glared. Taking out a rope from his bag, the man tied the hybrid's hands behind his back, pulling on the knot tightly as he winced. He then tied the teen to a tree, ensuring that he couldn't run away.

"Now, let's try this again. Where are they?" Ranboo scoffed.

"What makes you think I'll tell you?" Dream smirked.

"Simple. If you don't, I'll kill your little friend Tubbo. *Slowly*. And as the light drains from his eyes, I'll tell him exactly who sealed his fate." Dream sighed as Ranboo paused his struggling.

"But, if that isn't enough motivation, I'm sure this will be." He pulled out a couple glass bottles from his bag, filled to the brim with water. Ranboo swallowed nervously. Gritting his

teeth, he tensed and prepared for the burn of water on his skin. However, as Dream stepped closer, loud laughter echoed from nearby.

There were a couple different voices, but one was obnoxiously clearer than the rest: Tommy. Ranboo froze. Dream grinned, stepping away from the enderman.

“Looks like I don’t need you to tell me anything, seeing as you’ve led me right to him.”

I think it’s time for a family reunion.

Glancing toward where Technoblade was practicing with his axe, Tommy was torn. He was greatly enjoying his conversation with Tubbo and Wilbur, but he longed to take the warrior prince up on his offer. Looking down at his bandages, he tightened his hand into a fist.

“I’ll be back in a minute.” The two nodded and he got up, heading towards a large tree. Once behind it, he unwrapped his hand. Making sure he was completely hidden, Tommy began to sing. He took a deep breath to calm his growing nerves as he saw the wound close. *It’s okay. Dream’s not here. He’s not gonna know.* Once he was finished, he grabbed his sword and walked over to Techno.

“Alright, Big Man. Teach me how to be better or whatever.” The prince glanced down at the teen’s hand, eyebrows raised.

“I thought it was injured.” Tommy shook his head.

“Nope! I just forgot to take off the bandage earlier. It’s been fine for a while, see?” He held up his palm, and sure enough, it looked good as new. Techno shrugged.

“Okay. Let me see your stance.” Tommy got into position and the prince came up behind him, moving his arm to the left.

“There’s your first mistake: you gotta protect your chest more. And put more weight on your right leg, it’ll help you balance better. Perfect, just like that.” Tommy beamed at the praise. After adjusting himself according to Technoblade’s guidance, he eagerly asked what to do next. Techno smiled softly.

Teaching Tommy reminded him of when he was younger and taught Wilbur the basics. *This is what it might’ve been like to teach Theseus.* The thought made his heart pang, so he shook it away. Focusing back on Tommy, he grinned as the teen swung around his sword.

“Okay, show me what you can do.”

It was around twilight when the two finally stopped their training, stars just beginning to twinkle in the sky. They headed over to Tubbo and Wilbur, who had built a campfire and were taking turns strumming Tubbo's guitar. Wilbur, noticing them, paused his playing to wave them over. Tommy began talking excitedly about what he had learned, with Techno chiming in here and there to correct him. As the sky grew darker, recounts of the day turned into telling stories and sharing memories.

"Remember when you ran straight into a wall after stealing my gold necklace? God, that was hilarious!" Tubbo covered his face with his hands, groaning.

"Aw, c'mon, Tommy doesn't need to hear this one-"

"Actually, I'd *love* to hear exactly what happened." Tommy responded, laughing.

"Okay, so, I was just about to enter my room when the door was opened for me from the other side. By *Ranboo*. He was so shocked, he slammed it in my face! I burst in, and sure enough, Tubbo had my necklace in his hand. He ran past me and into the hallway. He must have been feeling quite cocky that day, because he turned around to mock me without slowing down. Big mistake, because he turned back around just in time to slam his face into the wall." Tubbo sighed before joining the others in their laughter.

"God, that hurt so bad! I got the biggest nose bleed too."

"Yeah! And then you were so embarrassed that you just gave me back the necklace! Poor Ranboo probably had to deal with your bitching for days." Tubbo groaned.

"No, the worst part was when I tried to drag Ranboo out of the castle with me, but he was laughing so hard that Prince Techno heard and came over to make fun of me." Wilbur lit up.

"Oh yeah, I forgot about that! Tech, didn't you force him to go to the palace doctor first? Tech- oh." Wilbur trailed off, looking towards his brother, who had fallen asleep. Tubbo yawned.

"I think he's got the right idea. Goodnight, guys!" Tubbo laid down as Wilbur resumed his guitar playing, the music lulling him off to sleep in minutes. Tommy sighed and moved to sit next to Wilbur.

"Play me a song?" The prince paused, seemingly debating on which song to play. He then began to strum a simple, bubbly melody. Weirdly enough, Tommy found that it sounded slightly *familiar*, like he had heard many times before. *That's odd. It doesn't sound like any of my discs. Maybe I heard it somewhere else?*

"What's this song?" Wilbur paused, putting down the guitar before turning to Tommy.

"It's called Cat. It was written for my younger brother when he was born." Huh.

“Oh. I swear it sounds familiar, but I can’t put my finger on it.”

“That’s probably because I’m using a guitar. It’s meant to be played on a disc, so it sounds pretty different and borderline unrecognizable on anything else.” Tommy nodded, making a mental note to try and listen to the disc one day as Wilbur yawned and laid down.

“Alright, I’m exhausted. Goodnight! Go to bed soon, yeah?”

“Okay.” Tommy said as Wilbur closed his eyes, nodding off rather quickly.

He stared at the slowly dying fire and decided that it would be a good idea to gather some more wood to keep it going for the night. Getting up, Tommy headed into the trees. After grabbing some thick sticks, he went to return to the fire, only to freeze when he heard a voice.

“Tommy?” Turning around, Tommy was met with a silhouette with a white mask, the smile filling him with a range of emotions.

“Dream?”

Chapter End Notes

aaand update done!!! hope you enjoyed!!! remember to take care of yourself and ily!!!

next chapter is the mother knows best reprise i promise

dream knows best

Chapter Summary

dream and tommy do not see eye to eye.

Chapter Notes

helloooooo i'm back!!! sorry for the wait, work and school are a lot rn. but!!! i'm here!! and so is this update!! just a tw for manipulation in this chapter. anyone else a huge fan of mother knows best reprise :)

also BEEDUO MEET UP LETS GOOO

one more thing: to those of you who were planning a murder in the comments, sharpen your knives

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

“Holy shit, Tommy!” Dream ran forward and enveloped the teen in a tight hug.

“When I realized you were gone, I was so worried! I thought someone had taken you! Are you okay? Are you hurt?” Tommy shook his head as Dream took off his mask to look him over.

“I’m okay. Sorry for worrying you.” Dream sighed.

“What happened?” Tommy inhaled deeply.

“It’s a bit of a long story, but basically, this dude Tubbo broke into the house, and we made a deal, so now he’s taking me to see the festival. But it’s been so fun!” Dream grabbed his arm, lightly tugging him along.

“Well, I’m just glad that you’re safe. Now, let’s go home.” Tommy pulled himself from his grip.

“No! I don’t- well, I haven’t even seen the lanterns yet! And I’ve made friends, and-”

“*Friends?*” Dream laughed cruelly.

“They’re using you, Tommy.” The teen shook his head quickly.

“No, they’re not! They- I don’t know! Wilbur told me everything I wanted to know about the kingdom, and Techno taught me how to fight better! And Tubbo and Ranboo are just... *nice* to me.”

“Oh? And were they nice to you *before* you used your powers?” Tommy nodded.

“Yeah! They-” Tommy froze as Dream raised his eyebrows. *Shit.*

“So the minute you break the rules and *leave*, you chose to do the *one thing* that would put you in even more danger? Do you even listen to a word I say?”

“You don’t understand! Ranboo was hurt, and-”

“Oh, I understand perfectly. You weren’t happy that I said no to the lanterns because I care about you and knew you wouldn’t be safe. But you left anyway, ‘cos Tommy knows what’s best, huh?”

“That’s not even- I have been safe! They haven’t hurt me!”

“Not yet. But what happens when they get what they want from you?” Tommy paused.

“What do you mean? The princes don’t know I can heal.” Dream sneered.

“*The crown*, Tommy.” The man pulled the satchel out from under his cloak as Tommy’s eyes widened.

“How did you-”

“I found it in the house while looking for you.” Dream huffed before continuing.

“You think they care about you? You think you’re *friends*? What makes you think that they won’t leave you the *second* that crown is in their possession?”

“Because they won’t! They- they said they like me. They like *being* with me.” Dream laughed.

“Tommy, how can you be so *stupid*? They’re lying to you! They’re putting up with your annoying habits and immature behaviour simply so they can get their way. Honestly, I thought I raised you to know better. What could they possibly like about you?” Tommy winced, curling in on himself. He looked to the ground, tense, only to spot a patch of alliums growing near his feet. He smiled slightly.

“Ranboo thinks I’m funny. And Tubbo said I’m the most selfless person he’s ever met. And I think that Wil and Techno are warming up to me, ‘cos they share their skills and stories with me.” Come to think of it, they kind of act like how Dream did when he was younger, back when Tommy really felt like they were as close as siblings could be.

“I don’t think they’re using me. You’re wrong.” Dream seethed.

“You know what? Fine. If you believe so strongly that they’re your friends, then go! Be with them! Give them their crown for all I care!” Dream tossed the satchel over to Tommy, who caught it just barely.

“Clearly, they’re the ones who really love you, and all I’ve done is hold you back.”

“What? No! I’m not-”

“No, I finally get it Tommy! I’m the worst thing that ever could’ve happened to you, right? What was I *thinking*, looking out for you? You obviously don’t need your brother around anymore, since you’re such an expert on the world.” Dream said sarcastically.

“I didn’t mean-”

“Save it. I’m the villain in your eyes, Tommy, and that’s all I’ll ever be to you. I’m sorry that I’m not enough for you.”

“No, I love you! Of course you’re enough! You’ve kept me safe my entire life! I don’t think you’re a villain!” Dream scoffed.

“Really? Because I bet that if I went to go talk to your little friends right now, they would hate me because of the lies you told them about me.” Dream gripped Tommy’s shoulder painfully.

“It’s fine, Tommy. Go be with the people who you think really care about you. But when you give them that crown and they abandon you, don’t come crying back to me.”

With that, Dream left Tommy alone. The teen was still reeling from the argument, shaking slightly before taking some deep breaths and heading back to the others. He rubbed his eyes, wiping away the tears that had gathered there. Returning to the campfire, he debated giving the crown to the princes directly. *What if Dream is right?* He shoved the satchel into his bag, burying it under his things. Even though he was sure that the others wouldn’t leave him, there was a weight in chest when he thought about it for too long. After all, there’s nothing that Tommy hates more than being alone.

As he went to lay down, Tubbo stirred.

“Hey, you okay?” He said groggily. Tommy smiled shakily.

“Yeah, I’m fine, Tubs. Sorry for waking you.” Tubbo sat up, yawning.

“No no, it’s cool. Just means we can hang out a bit more before you sleep.” Tommy laughed quietly.

“Wow, you’re really clingy when you’re tired. You sure you’re up for that? You look like you could fall asleep any second.” Tubbo hummed.

“Guess you’re right. Lay down here, so you can sleep too.” Tommy laid next to Tubbo, who put his head on his stomach.

“Hey!” He whispered. Tubbo giggled.

“Shhh. Pillow’s don’t talk.” Tommy scoffed fondly.

“Goodnight, Tommy. Sleep well. Love you.” The teen quickly nodded off, leaving Tommy to stare at the bright stars in the sky.

He thought about Dream, and the love he felt for him when he was younger. He thought about that love now, and while he still loved his brother dearly, he felt that the love had grown, perhaps for four new people. The thought scared him to no end, but also made him feel more whole, like they filled some part of himself. And even though Dream’s words and warnings rang throughout his mind, he had hope that they cared just as much about him as he did for them.

Goodnight, Tubbo. And, for the record, I think I love you guys too.

Chapter End Notes

aaand update done!! hope you enjoyed!! tbh kinda proud of this one bc dream is such an asshole :) anyway, next chapter will have some kingdom content!!

any philza enjoyers?

take care of yourself and ilysm <3

welcome to the kingdom

Chapter Summary

birthdays are very special to tommy, and this one is no exception.

Chapter Notes

hello!! hope you're all doing well!! first off, i wanna say a big thank you for 15k hits!! i'm so happy that people are reading lol

second off, i wanna apologize for not updating for over a week. i usually update around once a week, but work has been insane and draining. but i'm here now and hopefully will be here soon again with more

enjoy!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

When Tommy was little, birthdays were special. He would rush into his brother's room, bouncing on his bed with excitement until he woke up. Dream would give him his gift after breakfast and the two would spend the whole day together, doing whatever Tommy wanted. In the evening, they would bake a cake, Tommy licking the batter off the spoon while Dream finished decorating it. When Tommy was 6, he insisted on icing Dream's cake, leading to a misspelled 'birtday' and many laughs.

(Every year after that, any birthday cake made for eachother was conveniently missing the letter h.)

On his 10th birthday, Dream had given Tommy a sword. He was over the moon when his brother told him that he could start learning how to fight properly. Lessons happened almost daily, and soon Tommy could hold his own in a battle. He had never been happier when Dream expressed how proud he was.

So, overall, his birthday was clearly the best part of the year.

After the discovery of the lights, however, the day became so much more. Not only was it one of the only times he could spend an entire day with his brother, but at night, he got to see a glimpse of the outside world. He felt a weird connection to the lanterns, the golden light they emitted matching the glow of his power.

He knew that floating lights weren't natural, which meant that someone, somewhere, was launching them. And although he knew that they weren't for him, he allowed himself to believe they were. Perhaps someone knew about him and wanted to give him a birthday gift of their own.

Maybe, just maybe, the lanterns were a present from the world: a piece of sun to help brighten the darkness he felt when he was alone.

All in all, Tommy didn't mind not knowing why they appeared. Seeing the lights and feeling the happiness they gave him was enough.

"Hey, wake up!" Tommy could hear a voice softly pulling him out of his unconscious state. He felt someone shake his shoulder lightly. Groaning, he opened his eyes to see Tubbo kneeling down above him.

"Get up, Tommy! We gotta get going!" Tommy glared, rolling over to face the ground so the sun wouldn't reach his eyes.

"Fine, have it your way. I guess we'll head to the kingdom on our own, leaving you here to sleep-" In a second, Tommy was up on his feet. Tubbo laughed at the teen's eagerness.

"C'mon, the princes are almost done packing, so we can head to L'manburg whenever you're ready." Tommy nodded enthusiastically.

"Sounds good to me!" Tubbo smiled and left Tommy to go check that everything was packed. As soon as he was gone, Tommy grabbed his bag and dug through it, sighing in relief when the satchel with the crown was still sitting in the bottom. Although he wanted to hand it over to the princes, there was still a nagging fear that they would leave once they got what they wanted. It made Tommy feel sick, like his stomach was full of lead. The feeling only got worse when he remembered his encounter with Dream the night before.

"Good morning. You ready to go?" Tommy jumped at the sound of Technoblade's voice behind him. He quickly shoved his things into his bag, hiding the crown once more. Tubbo and Wilbur stood close behind him, seemingly all packed as well.

"Yeah, let's go!"

Alright, it's official. L'manburg was the best thing Tommy had ever seen in his life. The kingdom itself was huge, with houses and shops lining the streets. All of the buildings had beautiful designs etched in them, each one slightly different than the others, but still a unifying factor that connected each home to their kingdom.

And don't get him started on the *people*. Everywhere he looked, someone was there, going about their daily lives. It felt amazing to be surrounded by others, if not a bit overwhelming.

His friends laughed at Tommy's childlike wonder, looking fondly at him as he talked excitedly and asked questions about everything he saw.

Eventually, they entered a shopping district. Tommy was ecstatic, hopping from store to store to look at everything they had to offer (Hey, if this was gonna be his only time in the kingdom, he may as well make the most of it, right?).

While he was looking around, the others collectively decided to buy him some gifts (After what Tubbo told them offhandedly about how Tommy had never left his cottage before, the princes wanted him to have a reminder of the outside world). Wilbur picked out a nice sweater for the teen, and paid for it discreetly before presenting it to him.

Tommy put it on right away, and refused to take it off despite the warm weather.

Technoblade, spotting a booth selling daggers, grabbed his brother by the arm before dragging him to go help pick out a nice one for Tommy to surprise him with. While they were gone, the two teens went into another store to kill time.

"Woah! They've got discs!" Tommy exclaimed, running towards the display with Tubbo close behind.

"Yeah! Do you have a jukebox at home?" Tommy nodded as he went through the discs on the shelf.

"Mhm! Although, I think I have all of these at home too... Oh, look! Mellohi!" He pulled the disc from the rack, examining the purple and white exterior.

"Do you like that one?" Tubbo asked.

"Yup! It's my favourite. I scratched my copy at home, though, so it skips a bit." Tubbo hummed, thoughtful. Tommy put it down and went to leave, but a flash of green caught his eye.

Alone on a shelf stood a disc that he had never seen before. As he got closer, he could make out the title on the label: *Cat. Huh. That's the one that Wilbur played for me yesterday.*

"What'cha looking at?" Tubbo asked.

"Cat! I don't have this one. I don't even think I've ever heard it before."

"Ooo, that's a nice one. Y'know, it was originally composed in honour of Prince Theseus, but since his disappearance, it's a lot less common." Before Tommy could respond, Wilbur called

to them from outside.

“Tommy! Come see what Tech got you-“ Wilbur’s voice muffled, like someone had put a hand over his mouth.

“Don’t listen to him! I don’t know what he’s talking about- ew! Did you just *lick* me?!” The teen laughed at Technoblade’s disgusted tone.

“Coming!” Tommy rushed out of the store. Tubbo walked out minutes later, bag slightly heavier than before.

Tommy was standing with the princes, red-handled dagger in hand. He could honestly say that he’d never felt happier. It wasn’t the gifts, per say, but more the fact that his friends went out of their way to make him happy. They didn’t even know it was his birthday!

“Guys, as much as I appreciate all this, can I ask *why* you’re giving me things? Don’t get me wrong, I love them, but...” Tommy trailed off. Wilbur smiled and put a hand on his shoulder.

“*Because*, this is your first time in the kingdom. And if you never come back again, we want you to always remember it. And us, too, I guess.” Tommy’s smile turned bittersweet. In the excitement, he had forgotten that his time in L’manburg was limited. At some point, he had to go home.

But... did he really? I mean, Dream said it himself, he should be with his friends! His brother basically told him not to come back!

Unless, y’know, they betray him just like Dream said they would. Or leave him in general. Or simply get tired of him and decide that he’s more trouble than he’s worth.

“Alright,” Technoblade clapped, “I’m hungry. Wanna go line up for some food?” Broken out of his spiralling thoughts, Tommy nodded with the others.

“Yeah, I’m starving!” Tubbo said. He looked over to Tommy, who still seemed a bit lost in his head.

“How about the princes and I go line up, and Tommy, you can wait on that bench over there so we have a place to sit when we get back. Sound good?” Tommy agreed and waved goodbye to the three, who waved back and went into a nearby cafe.

Once on the bench, Tommy took some time to collect himself. He refused to let his thoughts interfere with what was already the best day of his life. He looked around, enjoying the bubbly atmosphere of the marketplace. It was nice to see so many people around, having fun just like he was. Lost in his head once more, he didn’t notice a new person entering the area, his presence itself commanding respect.

Until, of course, the man in question spoke to him.

“Excuse me, but I could use your help. Have you seen the princes by any chance?”

Big, black wings caught his eye, the feathers ruffling slightly in the breeze. Looking up to face the man, Tommy was met with kind eyes and a green striped hat slightly obscuring them.

“That depends. Who’s asking?” The man looked genuinely taken aback at the question.

“You, uh, don’t know who I am?” Tommy huffed, amused.

“What, you think you’re *so important* that everyone in the kingdom knows who you are?” The man opened his mouth to speak, but found himself at a loss for words. He laughed and sat next to Tommy.

“You’re right, please forgive me. My name is Philza.” He stuck out his hand, and Tommy shook it.

“I’m Tommy. Nice to meet you and all that. Now, how do you know Wilbur and Techno?” Before Phil could answer, a voice called out from behind them.

“Hey Tommy, I forgot to ask what you wanted to eat, so- oh!” Wilbur paused mid step. Phil looked over at him, eyebrows raised. Wilbur laughed nervously.

“Dad!”

“Hello Wil. Mind telling me where you’ve been?”

Chapter End Notes

aaaand update finished!! hope you enjoyed!! ilysm and have a nice day!!

next chapter is the beloved lantern scene

philza's interlude

Chapter Summary

king philza tries to find his sons.

Chapter Notes

hello!!!! early update by like a day or so bc i felt bad about the last one being so late and also this is a bit of a filler so-

anyway, thanks for 16k!!! love you all

if you see any typos, no you didn't #gaslight

drink some water and take care of yourself!!

enjoy <3

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

The lantern festival was always a bittersweet day for Phil. On one end, it was a day of remembrance, a reminder of what was missing from his family. However, it was also the biggest celebration in the kingdom, and it filled his heart with joy to see his people so happy.

He had the feeling that if Theseus *was* around, he wouldn't want his birthday to be a day of memorial, anyway.

The festival also served as a well-deserved break for the royal family. On the days before it, L'manburg is at its busiest. Countless people are needed to help ensure that it runs smoothly, with Philza at the head. During that time, he rarely sees his sons. But, on the day of the festival, they all take the entire day to be with one another before the launching of the lanterns.

Which is why he was so confused to enter the dining room, only to find it empty. After a spike of anxiety due to the fact that *all three of his sons were gone*, Philza took a steadying breath.

They're probably just at the vault. After all, it's Wilbur's job to check on it every morning.

Walking toward the vault, he nodded to the guards before opening it, as only a member of the royal family was permitted to enter. Shutting the door behind him, he looked toward the

crown.

Glass littered the floor, and both the crown and his sons were nowhere to be found. Philza sighed. *This is gonna be a long day.*

“Have the princes been in here today?” Phil asked, poking his head out the door.

“Nope, I haven’t seen them.” One guard responded, shaking her head.

“Oh! I believe Captain Puffy saw them last. Either her or Nihachu.” The other guard said. They pointed down the hall, and there the baker was, balancing multiple trays of cookies. He thanked the guards and headed over.

“Niki! Need any help?” The girl looked up, smiling.

“Thank you, but I’m good!” Philza fell into step with her, glancing at the treats.

“Are those for the festival? Because they look delicious.” Niki nodded.

“Yes, only the best! Now, what’s on your mind? You’re walking around like you’ve lost something.” Phil paused, Niki stopping as well to face him.

“Yeah, actually. Have you seen the princes anywhere?” The baker shook her head.

“Sorry, but the last I saw of them was around four days ago for a quick breakfast muffin. I’d ask Puffy if I were you, though.” Phil nodded.

“Alright, thank you.” He took off once more, this time to the guard tower.

“Puffy?” He called.

“Ah, your highness! What brings you here?” The captain emerged from her office to meet Phil in the stairwell.

“Have you seen my boys?” Puffy shook her head.

“Last I saw them, they were chasing that kid Tubbo out of the palace. But that was days ago, and they’re usually back within a couple hours after leaving.” Phil frowned.

“I’m not too worried, but I assumed they’d be home for the festival.” The captain hummed.

“Why don’t you look around the kingdom? I’m sure they’re just out having a bit of fun. *Teenage rebellion*, and all that.”

“Yeah, you’re probably right. Thanks for your help.”

Leaving the palace, Phil put on his hat and set out towards the nearest marketplace, eager to find his sons.

“Excuse me, but I could use your help. Have you seen the princes by any chance?”

When Phil asked this, he was expecting a simple yes or no answer. After all, that’s what he’d been getting all day! Either people had seen them earlier and pointed him towards the direction they went, or they hadn’t.

What he wasn’t expecting, however, was the kid’s response.

“That depends. Who’s asking?”

What?

“You, uh, don’t know who I am?” The kid looked him up and down.

“What, you think you’re *so important* that everyone in the kingdom knows who you are?” Phil went to speak, but was at a loss for words at the teen’s confidence. It was honestly refreshing to meet someone who had no respect for him whatsoever. He laughed and sat down next to the teen.

“You’re right, please forgive me. My name is Philza.” He stuck out his hand, and the kid shook it.

Looking him over, Phil furrowed his brow slightly. It was almost as if he was staring at a teenage version of himself, albeit this boy was taller and lankier than he ever was. *And his eyes, they’re almost the same as-*

“I’m Tommy. Nice to meet you and all that. Now, how do you know Wilbur and Techno?” Now here’s where Phil got really confused. Clearly, Tommy was on a first-name basis with his sons, yet he somehow didn’t know who their father, *the king*, was?

“Hey Tommy, I forgot to ask what you wanted to eat, so- oh!” Phil looked over at the voice, seeing none other than his son.

“Dad!” Wilbur laughed nervously. Phil raised his brows, unimpressed.

“Hello Wil. Mind telling me where you’ve been?”

“Uh, yeah! It’s a funny story, really...” Wilbur ran his fingers through his hair as Phil rolled his eyes. People began to look their way, so the king quickly pulled Wilbur into an alleyway, Tommy following close behind. Once they had privacy, Phil began his rant.

“Y’know what? I’d *love* to hear your side of things. Because on my end, it looks like you and your brother both discovered that Theseus’ crown was missing, and instead of telling me *like you’re supposed to do*, you went off to get it back yourselves. Sound about right?” Wilbur swallowed nervously.

“To be fair, we didn’t wanna worry you! You know how busy you get before the festival! And we thought that for sure we could get it back because we know who took it, but-“

“Wait, let me get this straight: you’ve been following the thief for *four days*, and in that time, you haven’t gotten the crown back? You and your brother are some of the most skilled people in the kingdom! Who could’ve *possibly* outsmarted you?” Tommy cleared his throat awkwardly.

“That would be me.”

The king turned to face him, and Tommy swore that if looks could kill, he would be six feet under. The teen raised his hands in mock surrender.

“Listen, it’s not my fault I’m better than them! And *besides*, we made a deal! They get it back after I’ve seen the lanterns.” Phil sighed, running his hands over his face. Wilbur quickly spoke up.

“Yup! So that’s why we haven’t been back!”

“Let me get this straight: you made a deal with the thief instead of just, I don’t know, *arresting him*?” Tommy glared.

“Hey! I didn’t steal it from *you*, I stole it from *Tubbo*! And in my defence, I thought it was his.” Phil looked exasperated.

“Wait, *Tubbo* stole it?! Why?” Tommy shrugged.

“Eh, doesn’t matter now. What matters is that the crown is safe, and I get to see the lanterns up close for the first time. Like I said: I’ll give it back after.” Phil sighed as Wilbur nodded along.

As much as he wanted to simply arrest the kid and get this over with, Wilbur really seemed to like him. He also both amused and confused Phil to no end, and seemed to have no ill intent. It really felt like all he wanted was to see the lanterns. Which was a bit weird, because they happen every year. *Has he never been to L’manburg before?*

“Fine. Just- can my sons come back *before* we launch the first lantern? Is that okay with you? I know you have your deal, but I don’t think I can do it alone.” Looking into Phil’s eyes, Tommy could see the man’s emotions swirling through them. They reminded him of the fact that the lanterns aren’t just for fun, but for mourning a member of the royal family and hoping that he’ll return. Tommy nodded.

“That’s fine. I wouldn’t want them to miss that anyway. But make sure to meet up with me after, okay?”

“Sounds good.” Wilbur responded. After a minute of silence, he grabbed Tommy by the arm, lightly pulling him out of the alley.

“Okay, well I’m sure that Tech and Tubbo are done getting food, so let’s go eat before it gets cold.” He paused and looked toward Phil. Letting go of Tommy, he ran forward to give him a

quick hug.

“Bye dad. Love you. See you soon, yeah?” Phil nodded and hugged him tight.

“Love you. And tell your brother I love him too.” Letting go of Wilbur, Phil gave a quick smile and wave to Tommy.

“Take care.” Tommy waved back, and the two headed off to find their friends.

The sun was just beginning to set as the group sat on the shore. Wilbur and Techno were getting ready to head back to the palace to meet up with their father and launch the first lantern.

Tommy was helping them pack, with Tubbo having left a minute before with a bag behind his back, mentioning that he'd be back soon (he left for the forest before Tommy had a chance to ask what was inside.)

“Bye Tommy! We'll see you soon.” Techno gave him a quick wave.

“Enjoy the lanterns!” Wilbur called out before he turned to leave with his brother. Watching them go, Tommy took a deep breath. He built up courage, thinking of all the fun they'd had together in the past couple days.

“Wait!” He reached into his bag, pulling out the satchel, and tossed it to Wilbur.

“Here. I was gonna give it to you after, because I was afraid you'd get tired of me and go. But, I guess I don't think you will anymore.” Wilbur opened the bag, gasping when he pulled out the crown. The princes smiled, both rushing forward to wrap Tommy in a tight hug.

“Thank you. And don't worry, we're already tired of you, but we haven't left yet, have we?” Tommy laughed at Technoblade's words, lightly hitting him on the arm.

“Yeah, we'll be back here as soon as we're done, okay?” Wilbur said, ruffling his hair. Tommy nodded and they said their goodbyes, Tubbo rushing out of the forest to hug them before they left.

With the twins gone, Tubbo sighed and turned to Tommy.

“I'm a bit worried about Ranboo. I mean, he said he'd meet us for the lanterns, but I haven't seen him all day.” Tommy nodded.

“Yeah, me neither. If you want, we can go look for him?” Tubbo shook his head.

“No, it’s okay. He probably just forgot, or got caught up in something. I don’t want you to miss the lanterns.”

“Okay, but we’ll go looking after. I’ll force that Philza guy to put out a royal decree for Ranboo’s capture.” Tubbo laughed and pulled Tommy over to the water’s edge.

“So, since this is your first time, I wanted you to have the best view.” He said, pointing over to a nearby boat. Tommy lit up.

“Really? That’s so cool! I’ve never been on a boat before!” Tommy climbed in, only to lose his balance. He would’ve fallen into the water if it weren’t for Tubbo catching him.

“Is that true? I couldn’t tell!” Tommy stuck his tongue out at him. Pushing off the shore, Tubbo began rowing them out to the middle of the water, giving the two a perfect view of the entire kingdom.

“Wow, it’s beautiful.” Tommy whispered in awe. Tubbo grinned.

“If you think that’s beautiful, I can’t wait to see your reaction to what’s about to start.” He pointed towards the palace.

A sole lantern floated above the castle, lighting up the dark like a stray piece of sunlight.

Chapter End Notes

aaaand update finished!!! hope you enjoyed!! the next one should be out earlier than usual bc i said so

ilysm

lantern scene next anyone?? :D

calm before the storm

Chapter Summary

tommy sees the lanterns in person.

Chapter Notes

heyyyyy im back!!! hope you're all doing well!!

work is okay for now so more updates soon :0

ilysm and enjoy!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

With the first light off, thousands of others quickly followed. From their spot on the boat, it looked like liquid gold was pouring down the streets as people launched their lanterns.

“Woah.” Tommy was at a loss for words. It was truly breathtaking.

“I know, right? It’s insane.” Tubbo smiled at Tommy’s awed expression.

“I just- holy shit.” The two watched the lights in comfortable silence, taking it all in.

It was nothing like Tommy had ever seen before. At his home, watching from the window, the lights were always far away. And although he still loved them, it was so much *better* to see them in person. He felt like he was a part of something bigger than himself. He felt *free*. In his heart, he knew that he was meant to be here.

After some time, the lanterns began to drift downwards towards the water, surrounding their boat in little balls of light. Tommy leaned off the side, reaching out to push one that had gotten dangerously close to the water back into the air. Tubbo cleared his throat and pulled out two lanterns from his bag. Lighting them, he passed one to Tommy.

“Here, now you’re officially a part of the lantern festival.” Launching them together, the two watched them float up before joining the multitude of others. Tears sprang into Tommy’s eyes.

“Shit, what’s wrong? Is it... not what you thought it would be?” Tommy shook his head, wiping the tears off his face.

“No, it’s even better than I ever imagined. It’s just-“ Tommy trailed off, debating whether or not to continue. He took a deep breath in an attempt to calm himself down.

“When I was a kid, I thought that they were meant for me. That maybe, the world was sending them to me as a way to compensate for... *everything*.”

“What do you mean?”

“Well, it was the world who gave me these powers. And obviously I’m really glad I have them! I don’t think I’d feel whole without the sunlight in my veins. But... they’ve basically forced me to be alone.” Tubbo pulled him into a hug, rocking the boat slightly.

“Well, you don’t have to be alone anymore. I’ll personally make sure of it.” Tommy sniffed, holding back more tears. Leaving the hug, he smiled gratefully at his friend.

“Thanks. For everything.”

Turning back to watch the lanterns, Tommy began to think one more. His whole life, he’d been wishing and hoping to leave his cottage. And now, that wish came true. It was simultaneously the best thing ever and the worst feeling possible.

“Tubbo?”

“Yeah? What’s up?” Tommy took a deep breath before speaking.

“For my entire life, this has been my dream. Every year I’d look out my window and *hope* that maybe one day, I’d get to see the floating lights in person. But now I have, and I don’t know how to feel. I’m happy, obviously, because this is literally the best thing ever. But when it’s over, what do I do then?” Tubbo thought for a moment before responding.

“You find a new dream, I guess.”

Tommy closed his eyes and tried to imagine what he would want the most.

He saw himself with Tubbo, the teen teaching him how to properly collect honey.

He saw a thunderstorm through a window, with him and Ranboo drinking hot chocolate and watching the rain fall from the safety of their home.

He saw Technoblade giving him some more sword fighting lessons, smiling when Tommy did something right.

He saw Wilbur trying to teach him the guitar, the two laughing when Tommy messed up.

Maybe that dream isn’t as impossible as it seems.

The two sat together until all of the lanterns faded out of view, like tiny stars going out. Rowing them back to shore, Tubbo hopped out of the boat to bring it onto land. Meanwhile, Tommy was talking a mile a minute, going off about how much he loved the lights and how happy he was. Tubbo grinned, glad to see that Tommy had a good time.

“This has got to be one of the best birthdays *ever*.” Tubbo paused.

“What?”

“Oh! I didn’t tell you guys, but it’s my birthday today. I guess I was still a bit anxious about trusting you.” Tommy said sheepishly.

“No, it’s cool! I wish you told me earlier though, ‘cos I could’ve gotten you some cake.”

“Well, there’s always next year.” Tommy responded, smirking. Tubbo laughed before he lit up, remembering his present for Tommy in the forest. It wasn’t meant as a birthday gift, as he just wanted his friend to have something nice, but it would work nonetheless.

“Hang on, I’ll be back in a sec.” He quickly ran into the trees to go get his gift. As he was walking, he thought more about the fact that it was Tommy’s birthday. It struck him as odd, but he couldn’t quite place *why* until he picked up the present. Looking down at the two discs, he froze when he saw Cat.

Tommy’s birthday is the same day as Prince Theseus. Both are turning 17. Does that mean that-

He shook his head. *There’s no way*. Tommy had mentioned his brother numerous times, so they’re obviously very close. How would he have a brother if he was kidnapped? It made no sense.

Unless, of course, Tommy was manipulated into believing that his kidnapper was actually his brother.

No, that’s insane. Relax Tubbo, it’s just a coincidence. But thinking more, he realized one major detail.

The flower that healed the queen was said to be from the sun, and Tommy always compares his powers to sunlight.

Holy shit! Tommy is Prince Theseus! A million things buzzed through his mind. Now that he thought about it, it was obvious! I mean, the teen even looks like King Philza! And, he’s never been allowed to go to the kingdom before! Maybe his kidnapper was worried that he would figure it out if he did!

Does he know?

Who took him?

Well, his ‘brother’ obviously, but who was that?

That explains his emotional connection with the lanterns! What’re the odds that they actually did what they were supposed to do? They literally brought the lost prince back to the kingdom!

Shit. There’s no way he knows. Fuck.

Tubbo heard a twig snap. Looking up, he found himself face-to-face with Technoblade.

He looked hurt, betrayed, and annoyed, but above all, he was pissed off beyond belief.

Chapter End Notes

aaaand update finished!! hope you enjoyed!! next chapter may make some of you angry at a certain green man :)

drink some water and get some sleep!!! <3

leave a kudo or comment to vibe!! i try to respond to mostly all of them

:D

alone again

Chapter Summary

dream meets up with the princes, leading to to many misconceptions. tommy is once again without any friends, wondering where he went wrong.

Chapter Notes

hello!! i'm back!!! early update for you all bc holy shit!! we got over 1000 hits in less than 24 hours :D
thank you so much!!!!

i hope you're all doing well because literally every person in this story is not rn
enjoy!!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Saying goodbye to their dad, the twins left the palace and headed towards the shore where Tommy and Tubbo were waiting. When they reached the forest, they walked along the path until they heard a sound behind them. They turned, Technoblade drawing his axe and pointing it at the person responsible.

“Woah! I’m not here to hurt you or anything.” The man raised one hand in mock surrender, the other occupied with holding a tied-up Ranboo. Wilbur scowled.

“*Dream*. What do you want?” Dream adjusted his mask to better cover his face as Techno lowered the axe to his side.

“I’m just here to give you some information, and possibly ask for your help.” Techno raised an eyebrow.

“Why is Ranboo tied up?”

“Because he and that other thief deserve to be in jail, and I am going to ensure that happens.” The princes glanced at each other, confused.

“You see, a couple days back, that Tubbo kid came looking for me. He wanted to buy a healing potion for his friend here. Now I know I have a bit of a bad reputation, but I wasn’t about to deny him something that he so clearly needed. Besides, the jewels he offered were more than enough.”

Ranboo tried to call his bullshit, but couldn't get a word out from behind the gag Dream had put on him.

Techno growled angrily. *Tubbo lied to us.* Wilbur, however, wasn't completely convinced.

"How do we know you're telling the truth?"

"I have no reason to lie. And look at Ranboo: he's completely healed from any scars." Wilbur scanned him over, and Dream was right: the hybrid looked good as new. *God damn it!* He stomped his foot in anger.

"Why are you telling us this?" Technoblade asked. Dream sighed.

"Their lies make me and my business look bad. And, well..." He sighed before continuing.

"My brother Tommy has been missing from home for days. I've looked everywhere, but he's just *gone*. So imagine my surprise when I find out that he's with the two thieves that lied about me and stole the lost prince's crown." Ranboo froze.

Wait, brother? Tommy's brother is Dream?

"I just want my brother back home safe. I'm sure that you, of all people, know how that feels." The twins nodded solemnly, and Wilbur put a comforting hand on Dream's shoulder.

"Don't worry. We'll make sure that they get what they deserve: a lifelong sentence in prison." Dream nodded and thanked the two, handing Ranboo off to Wilbur before heading off to find Tommy. Wilbur turned to his brother.

"I'll take him to the castle. You wanna go get Tubbo?" Technoblade nodded, gripping his axe.

"Way ahead of you."

Technoblade was watching Tubbo through the trees. The teen was alone, staring at two discs with intensity. He looked very deep in thought and somewhat shocked, but Techno couldn't tell what he was thinking about.

It didn't really matter anyway, as Tubbo would have plenty of time to think in jail.

Sneaking toward him, Techno stepped on a twig to catch his attention. Tubbo startled, spinning around to face him. Despite Technoblade's scary expression, Tubbo greeted him cheerfully.

"Oh, hey Prince Techno! How were the lanterns? And... where's your brother?" Techno glared at him.

“With Ranboo.” Tubbo lost some tension in his shoulders.

“Thank god. I was worried that he got hurt ‘cos he was supposed to meet us earlier.” Techno sighed.

“Okay, enough with the small-talk. I know what you did.” Tubbo looked at him quizzically.

“Uh... what? What’re you talking about?” The prince rolled his eyes.

“Oh *come on* Tubbo, don’t play dumb with me. Dream told us everything. I can’t believe you lied to us!”

“I didn’t lie about anything! Seriously, what are you talking about?” Tubbo asked desperately.

“*The potion*. You said that Dream wouldn’t sell it to you, so you stole the crown to save Ranboo. But we just saw him, and he’s perfectly fine. Good as new, in fact. Care to explain?”

“Listen, it’s not what you think! Dream didn’t sell me the potion, I swear!”

“Then how else did Ranboo heal?” Techno asked. He sneered when Tubbo didn’t respond.

“*Exactly*. Now c’mon, let’s go. It’s prison time for you.”

Tubbo stood, frozen. Techno sighed and stepped forward.

“Don’t make me hurt you. Just come peacefully.” Tubbo glanced in the direction where he left Tommy. He quickly took off running, only to be tackled to the ground before he could get far. Dropping the discs in the conflict, he cried out as Mellohi was crushed under him. Cat, however, rolled away unscathed.

“Stop! At least let me talk to Tommy-“

“No. He needs to go back home with his brother. It’s for the best.” Tubbo tried to fight out of Techoblade’s grip, but the prince was too strong.

He didn’t stop struggling until he was thrown into a jail cell.

Tommy stood on the shoreline waiting for Tubbo. The teen had been gone for quite a while, and he was beginning to get nervous. After a few more minutes of waiting, he headed over to the area he saw Tubbo disappear off to, calling out.

“Tubbo? You okay?” No response. Tommy sighed and continued walking. Eventually, he stumbled upon two discs that he had seen at the store earlier. *Tubbo must’ve bought them for me.*

Mellohi was in pieces, scattered across the ground in black and purple shards.

The other disc, Cat, was in perfect condition. Picking it up and placing it in his bag, Tommy then went to inspect the pieces of the other disc. It looked like someone had smashed it. *Angrily*. But why would Tubbo break it?

Maybe he got tired of me. Tommy clenched his fist.

What did I do to piss him off? He said he was having fun! He said he enjoyed my company! Was he lying?

Tommy began to pace.

Was it my rambling?

Was I too loud on the boat?

Too annoying?

Did I bother him too much?

Maybe all my openness earlier scared him off.

Why did he leave? He said he wouldn't!

Tommy sighed. To be fair, Tubbo held up his end of the deal: he took Tommy to see the lanterns. He had no obligation to stay anymore.

Still, Tommy had thought that they were friends. Hell, Tubbo *said* they were friends.

It hurt so much more knowing that he didn't really mean it.

Tears burned the back of his eyes, and Tommy had no strength to stop them. He fell to the ground, punching the dirt and throwing the broken bits of Mellohi around to try and get rid of his emotions. He yelled in anger and pain, attempting to block out his thoughts.

It didn't help.

God, he felt so *stupid*! Of course Tubbo didn't care: none of them did! They were only tolerating him so they could get back the crown!

Dream was right.

The realization stung, but Tommy knew it was true. His brother had warned him, but he was stubborn enough to believe he was right. He paused in his throwing, clutching a piece of the disc in his hand.

Why did I think I could be okay without him? Now he probably hates me.

Why did I leave in the first place?

“Tommy? Is that you?” Tommy looked up, surprised.

“Dream?” His brother emerged from the trees.

“Oh, thank god! After our fight, I was so worried about you! I thought I’d lost you forever.”

“*Dream!*” Tommy rushed forward and enveloped his brother in a hug. Dream instantly hugged back.

“Are you okay? Are you hurt?” He asked, rubbing Tommy’s back to sooth him. The teen sniffed, muffling his cries on Dream’s shoulder.

“You were right! I never should’ve left. They- they don’t care about me. I don’t think they ever did.” Underneath his mask, Dream smiled cruelly.

“Oh Tommy... I wish I wasn’t. I’m sorry you had to go through that.” Leaving the hug, Tommy wiped his eyes and shook his head.

“No, you tried to warn me. It’s *me* who should be sorry. And I am! God, I’m so sorry.” Dream grabbed his arm lightly.

“It’s okay. Let’s just get home, alright? We can put this all behind us. It’ll be like it never happened.” Tommy nodded and began walking back to his home with his brother.

“I really am sorry, Dream. I- I get it if you never wanna see me again.”

“We’re good, Tommy. No matter what you do, you’ll always have me. I’ll never leave you.”

Chapter End Notes

aaaand update finished!!! hope you enjoyed!!! feel free to comment or kudo if you wanna vibe!! i usually respond to most comments

i apologize for the angst, ngl theres so much more coming

but ilysm and drink some water!!!

realization

Chapter Summary

tubbo and ranboo share information in jail before the princes arrive to have a chat. meanwhile, tommy listens to cat for the first time.

Chapter Notes

hellooooooooo hope you're well!!

early update for you <3

thank you all so much for over 20k hits!! i seriously never thought we'd get here and it means so much to me that you're all liking it so far

enjoy!!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Tubbo stood alone in a jail cell. After Techno threw him in, the prince went to go get his brother. Tubbo had called after him, yelling about how they were lied to.

“Please, you *know* me! You know I’d never do anything like that without a good reason! Dream lied, I swear!”

Technoblade refused to even look at him.

Tubbo sighed and sat down. He was pissed off, sure, but he was also *confused*. *What did Dream do to convince them that I’m in the wrong?* He continued to think until he heard a voice calling him from the cell next to his.

“Tubbo? Is that you?”

“Ranboo?” Tubbo sprang up and ran towards the wall.

“Yeah! Hang on.” A slight warping sound echoed throughout the cell, and soon enough, Ranboo was inside of it. He swayed on his feet, but was caught by his friend before he could fall.

“Are you okay? We were worried when you didn’t show up for the festival.” Ranboo shook his head.

“Dream took me. He tied me up, then told the princes that he sold you the potion to heal me. He said you lied about it so you could steal the crown for yourself.”

“That’s insane! Did he hurt you?”

“No, I’m fine.” Tubbo sighed in relief.

“I’m glad you’re okay, but we gotta get out of here. I think that Tommy’s in big trouble.” Ranboo nodded.

“Yeah, especially if Dream finds him.” Tubbo looked over at him, confused.

“What do you mean?” Ranboo looked at him, tilting his head.

“Dream’s his *brother*! And I definitely don’t trust that he has Tommy’s best interests at heart. I thought that was what you were talking about?”

“Wait, *Dream* is his *brother*? *What?*”

“What do you mean? What were you talking about, then?”

“Tommy is Prince Theseus!”

“*What?* There’s no way-“

“Think about it! They’re the same age, Tommy said that today was his birthday, and he looks a bit like the king. And, the queen was healed by the sun’s flower. What does Tommy always compare his healing power to?”

“Sunlight! Oh my god...” Ranboo didn’t know what to say. The two both fell quiet, each taking some time to process what the other had told them. After a few minutes, Tubbo spoke up.

“But why would Dream take him? I mean, what was in it for him?”

“...Y’know how he said his brother cuts him?” Ranboo said hesitantly. Tubbo’s eyes went wide.

“The blood! The day I went to get a healing potion, Dream had poured a dark red liquid into it. Do you think...” They both grimaced. *Holy shit, that’s fucked up on a whole new level.* Ranboo cleared his throat.

“Do you think he knows?” Tubbo shook his head.

“No.” Ranboo inhaled shakily and stood up, wobbling slightly.

“We gotta go help him. I can teleport us near his home, you just gotta describe something nearby that I’d know.” Tubbo rushed and put his arm under Ranboo’s shoulder, supporting his weight.

“No way. You *just* teleported. At least take a few more minutes to rest.” Ranboo sighed.

“Fine.”

The two heard a door slam somewhere in the hallway. They looked up, alert, and saw the two princes walking towards them. Techno paused at the fact that they were in the same cell, but didn’t dwell on it.

“Why are you here?” Tubbo asked. Wilbur glared.

“We want to know why you did it.” Ranboo rolled his eyes.

“Like I said, we didn’t *do* anything!” Techno sighed.

“Listen, we didn’t come down here to fight. And as pissed as we are, we also just wanna know the truth.” Wilbur nodded, opening his mouth to speak and closing it a few times before he figured out the right words.

“Were you ever really our friends? Or was everything just an elaborate plan to get to us and steal?” Both Tubbo and Ranboo looked at him weirdly.

“Are you kidding? *Of course we’re friends!* Do you seriously think that we’d lie about that?” Ranboo exclaimed.

“Then what made you turn on us?” Techno asked. The thieves sighed.

“We didn’t turn on you. We *never* turn on our friends. Which is why you need to listen.” Tubbo said. The twins raised their eyebrows, but made no move to interrupt him.

“Tommy is in *danger*. Dream’s a manipulative prick, and he’s using him for his own gain. We need to go and help him get out of there.”

“Are you really saying that *again*? All the man wants is to keep his little brother safe!” Ranboo shook his head at Techno’s words.

“Fine. If you don’t believe us, that’s okay. But we’re gonna get out of here and help him. And you can either join us, or live with that regret for the rest of your life.” Tubbo nodded along before speaking.

“Remember that huge oak tree we had a picnic under a couple years back? Wilbur, you got stuck when you tried to climb it, so Ranboo had to teleport you back down.” The princes nodded, confused as to why Tubbo would bring it up.

“To the right of it, there’s a wall of vines that hide a cave entrance. Follow the tunnel, and you’ll find Tommy’s home.” Tubbo nodded at Ranboo, and the hybrid grabbed his arm.

Purple particles floated around them. Before the twins could open the cell and stop them, they were gone.

Tommy sat alone in his room. His house was eerily quiet compared to the company he'd had the past couple days.

Dream had rode them home on a horse (where he got said horse, Tommy had no clue) and had sat with him, discussing what happened.

Tommy still had a piece of Mellohi in his hand, which Dream took from him and placed in the trash.

"There. Now it's officially over." Tommy nodded.

"Sorry." Dream sighed.

"It's okay Tommy. We can get past this. Unless you're planning on leaving again?" Tommy shook his head violently.

"No! Of course not! I'm *never* leaving again." Dream smiled.

"Good. I'm gonna go make us some food, okay?" Tommy nodded once more, and Dream left.

He felt so *hollow*, like someone had stolen his emotions and replaced them with nothing. At least he still had the allium Ranboo gave him sitting on his desk. And the sweater from Wilbur, with the dagger from Techno in its pocket (even though Dream had taken them).

The Cat disc from Tubbo still sat in his bag, untouched.

Well, music always helps to distract me.

He got up from his bed and pulled the disc out. Carefully, he placed it into the jukebox. He turned the volume lower so Dream wouldn't hear, and pushed play.

The room was filled with a bright melody. Tubbo has said it was a song of celebration for the birth of Prince Theseus, and Tommy could now see why. The song was *beautiful*. It comforted Tommy to no end, and the teen didn't understand why.

He found himself humming along to the song despite never hearing it before (sure, Wilbur had played it for him, but it sounded very different on the guitar).

It was weird knowing every note before it played. But it felt *right*.

He sat back on his bed and closed his eyes. In his mind, he could see the inside of a crib, with four silhouettes surrounding it.

It felt like a memory, but from *when*?

Trying to see the faces clearly, Tommy could only make out one detail: a green and white striped hat.

What the fuck.

Keeping his eyes shut, he willed his mind to remember the rest.

The song ended.

Tommy rushed to the jukebox, banging into his drawer.

“You okay?” Dream called from the kitchen.

“Yeah, just tripped!” Tommy yelled back, rewinding the disc. As it began to play again, he laid down on his bed, shutting his eyes tight and trying to force the memory back.

A child’s voice echoed in his mind.

“Can I pick his name?”

A man laughed endearingly.

“Sure, let’s hear what you’ve got.”

“No! I wanna pick it!”

Another child said. A woman responded, her voice soft.

“Why don’t we let Techno pick, and you choose the middle name?”

“Fine, let’s hear it.”

“Theseus. Prince Theseus of L’Manburg.”

Tommy’s eyes snapped open.

How did he know how Theseus was named? It made no sense. It’s not like he was there, right? He was simply imagining things. Dream always says he has an overactive imagination, after all.

But, it felt real. The song, the crib, the voices, they all felt real. That actually happened, I’m sure of it.

This realization could only mean one thing, and Tommy’s eyes widened as he connected the dots.

I’m the lost prince.

aaaaaand update finished!! hope you enjoyed!! leave a comment or kudo if you wanna
vibe!!

drink some water and have a rest bc you deserve it

next up will be confrontation soooooooo that'll be fun

ilysm!!!

confrontation

Chapter Summary

tommy confronts dream about everything.

Chapter Notes

hello!!!! hope you're well!!

i'm at my grandma's currently and have basically no wifi so i'm posting this in a tim hortons lmao

also forgive me for any errors, i didn't have much time to edit and i wanted to post so bad bc the next chapter excites me

anyway enjoy!!!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Tommy was pacing around his room, trying to understand what everything meant.

I'm the lost prince. What the fuck.

To be fair, Tommy always felt that Dream was hiding something. Let's be honest: they look nothing alike. And Dream always kept things from him, like where they lived before the cottage and why he had powers but his brother didn't.

He assumed that maybe he'd been adopted.

Whenever he'd ask about their parents, Dream would always brush it off and say that they were dead. But he never said their names or even how they died. Or anything about them, really.

And when he asked about the lanterns, Dream had said they were stars. But surely by being in the kingdom so often, he knew what they were and who they were for. So why else wouldn't he mention it, let alone go as far as to lie about them when Tommy asked?

Tommy decided to confront the man. He grabbed Cat out of the jukebox and ran into the kitchen.

"Why haven't I heard this one before? I thought we owned all the discs."

“What’re you-“ Dream froze when he saw the green disc in Tommy’s hand. *Fuck*. He took a deep breath to calm himself, not wanting the teen to notice that anything was wrong.

“Where’d you even get that? I thought I told you to give me everything from the kingdom.” Tommy glared.

“Answer the question.” Dream sighed.

“Just give me the disc, Tommy.” He was growing impatient now, taking a step towards the teen.

“No!” Tommy walked backwards slightly and held the disc behind him.

“Give it to me!”

“Is it because you were worried that I’d recognize it? Because I do!”

“You don’t know what you’re talking about! It’s just a random song!”

“Oh, is it? ‘Cos Tubbo told me that it was made for the lost prince on the day he was born. It was made for *me*.” Dream was seething with anger.

“Tommy-“

“Don’t you mean *Theseus*? That’s my name, isn’t it? My *real* name.” Tommy sneered at the man before continuing.

“I guess that’s the one good thing you’ve done for me, since Thesesus is a bit of a shit name. Tommy suits me much better. But that’s not why you changed it, is it?”

“Just-“

“You wanted to make sure I’d never find out, ‘cos if I did, you knew I’d leave. You just- you wanted me for yourself. You wanted my *power* for yourself. Didn’t you? You never cared about me at all!” Tommy laughed angrily, tears burning his eyes.

“You bastard! I spent my whole *life* hiding from people who would use me for my power, when I should’ve been hiding from you!”

“Enough!” Dream snatched the disc from him, snapping it in half. Tommy winced.

“You’re not the lost prince! You’re just a sad little *nobody* who wants to believe he’s worth more than he is. Now let’s go to your room, where you’ll be stuck until you can learn some respect.” Tommy stood, breathing heavily as Dream grabbed his wrist and began dragging him to his room. In a moment of confidence, he yanked his arm out of Dream’s bruising grip.

“No! I’m done listening to you! You have *nothing* over me anymore!”

Dream punched Tommy in the stomach, sending him onto the floor. He sighed at the teen’s coughing, annoyed.

“God, do you *ever* shut up?” Tommy flinched as Dream began to laugh.

“Seventeen *years* I’ve put up with you! I gave you food, entertainment, a *home*, and for what? Just for you to figure it out?” Tommy was shaking slightly, making his glare look less threatening and more fearful.

“You’re a monster.”

“Yeah? So what? What’re you gonna do now? Because we both know you can’t beat me in a fight.”

“You bitch-”

“Y’know, I was being *nice*, letting you have a good life. Pretending to care about you. But that’s all over now.”

“What’re you gonna do, huh? I know that it's not real! How are you gonna keep me locked up now, dickhead?”

Dream was quick to grab his sword, aiming it at the teen’s neck. Tommy, however, just grinned.

“Go on, do it. I don’t care what you do to me anymore. We both know you can’t hurt me, anyway. You need my power.”

“Fuck!” Dream stabbed the sword into the floor inches away from Tommy’s face. He kicked his ribs for good measure, knocking the wind out of the teen. He began to pace around, trying to think of a plan.

“Tommy?” Someone yelled from outside. *Tubbo?*

“Tommy, are you here?” *Ranboo too?* Tommy tried to call out and tell them to leave, but his warnings came out as nothing more than a whisper due to his wheezing.

He paled when he noticed Dream’s smirk. Quick to grab some rope, the man yanked the teen up and on to a chair, tying him to it. With Tommy secure, he grabbed his sword out of the ground and placed his mask over his face.

Tommy’s wrists already burned from how hard he’d been trying to wiggle out of the rope. *Shit, they need to get out of here!* He looked up at Dream, eyes begging him not to hurt his friends. The man grinned evilly, grabbing his bow and placing it onto his back.

“What was it you said about me not having anything over you? Because even if you don’t care about what I do to *you*, I sure as hell know you care about them.”

aaaaaaand update finished!!! hope you enjoyed!!! next up there will be pain.

if you comment and i don't respond don't be sad i promise i'll respond to them when i get wifi again

have a nice day!!

escape

Chapter Summary

tubbo and ranboo have come to help tommy escape. unfortunately, dream is prepared.

Chapter Notes

helloooooo im here!! im sorry for not updating for a while! a close family member had medical stuff and ive been working a lot so not much free time lmao

BUT IM HERE and we're at the fun bit now

also thank you all so much for 25k hits!! i seriously never in a million years wouldve thought that this little tangled au on minecraft roleplay would get anywhere, you all make me so happy

TW: VIOLENCE AND BLOOD

maybe gore too? idk what qualifies as gore

anyway, just in case

STAY SAFE!!

enjoy!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Running through the vines, Tubbo held Ranboo's hand and practically dragged him towards Tommy's home. The hybrid was stumbling, trying his best to keep up even though he was utterly exhausted from the teleportation. When Tubbo tried to slow down to accommodate him, Ranboo pulled him along.

Tommy's safety was their highest priority.

Once in the glade, Tubbo called out for his friend with Ranboo leaning on his shoulder doing the same.

"Tommy?"

"Tommy, are you here?"

No response. *God damn it.*

“I think we should head into the house.” Ranboo nodded.

“Yeah, but stay alert. We don’t know where either of them are.”

The two opened the door, scanning inside for movement. Seeing nothing, they headed in. As they walked, Tubbo almost tripped over something. Looking down, he spotted Tommy’s sword. *Perfect. Now we actually have something to protect ourselves with.* He picked it up and held it in front of his chest defensively.

A bang came from the room to their left, and the two looked at each other quickly before running into it.

Tommy was on the ground, tied to a chair.

He was kicking at the ropes, trying and failing to escape them. He froze when he spotted his friends. Tubbo rushed forward, quickly cutting the ropes.

“Are you okay?!”

“I’m fine, but you both need to go. *Now.*” Ranboo shook his head.

“Not without you. We’re not leaving you with that asshole of a brother.” Tommy glared.

“Dream is *not* my brother.” The thieves’ eyes widened.

“You figured it out?”

“Yeah, I- wait. What do you mean ‘figured it out’? How do *you* know?”

“When you said it was your birthday, it kinda brought all the lost prince stuff together for me. Ranboo, however, was the one to figure out that Dream was the one to take you.” Tommy nodded.

“I realized it while listening to that Cat disc you got me. I had a memory of me in the castle, and it felt too real to be my imagination. And when I asked Dream about it, he got insanely angry and defensive, which pretty much proved it.”

The teen looked out into the hallway, scanning it before motioning for the others to follow him. He stopped in front of Dream’s room, going in alone. He came out moments later wearing the sweater Wilbur gave him, Dream’s axe in hand. He reached into the pocket and handed Techno’s dagger to Ranboo.

“Are you good with this?” Ranboo nodded. The three made their way to the front door.

Tubbo left first, looking around before opening it fully for the others. Tommy followed, and Ranboo took a step forward.

He felt an arm grab his waist, pulling him back.

“Leaving so soon?” Tommy and Tubbo turned around. Dream stood with a jar of water in his hand, Ranboo held against him.

“Let him go!” Tubbo yelled. Dream laughed.

“And why would I do that? I think Ranboo here could use a nice bath, after all.” Dream said, smirking under his mask. Tommy growled and raised his axe at the man, who tipped the jar closer to the hybrid.

“I’d be careful with that. Don’t want me spilling this, do you?”

Ranboo tensed and prepared himself for the burn of water on his skin. Throwing his body back, he banged into Dream, causing the man to lose his balance. The two fell, the jar smashing and splashing all over Ranboo’s arm. Tommy rushed forward, Tubbo close behind.

“Holy shit, that was badass! Are you okay?” Ranboo nodded, gritting his teeth.

“I’m fine, just brace yourselves.” He stood up wearily, grabbing both of his friends’ arms. Dream sat up and ran towards them when he saw purple particles surround the teens.

Ranboo teleported them all on top of the cliffs that encased Tommy’s cottage. He fell to the ground, out cold.

“Ranboo!” Tommy shook him, trying to get him to wake up. Tubbo pulled him off of the teen.

“He’s okay, this just happens when he uses his power too much.” Tommy sighed in relief. He began digging through Ranboo’s pockets, looking for something.

“What’re you doing?” Tubbo asked.

“I hid a vial of my blood in his pocket when we left your house.” Tommy replied, exclaiming when he found it. He quickly undid the cap and poured its contents onto Ranboo’s arm, which glowed as the wounds closed. Moments later, his eyes opened, Tommy’s magic bringing him out of his unconscious state.

“Are you both okay?” Ranboo asked groggily.

“We’re good, thanks to you.” Tommy replied. Tubbo flicked the hybrid on the arm.

“That was insanely risky, you idiot!” Ranboo smiled.

“It worked though, didn’t it? We got away.”

“I wouldn’t be so sure.” The three teens turned at the sound of Dream’s voice.

The man stood a few feet away from them, holding his sword lazily.

“Are you fucking *kidding me*?!” Tubbo groaned.

“Y’know, that little teleporting trick is quite predictable. It’s pretty easy to join in. Now, how about we continue where we left off?” Tommy raised his axe, moving in front of the others to face Dream.

“This is between you and me, not them.”

“I was just thinking the same thing! Let’s make this easy: if you come with me right now, I won’t kill your friends.” Tommy faltered for a second, weighing his options.

I don’t want to be with Dream again, but I also don’t want them to get hurt. And why would they want to risk their lives for me anyway?

Tommy stepped forward, lowering his axe slightly. Ranboo and Tubbo jumped in front of him, raising their weapons protectively.

“There’s no way in hell that he’s going with you.” Tommy’s chest filled with joy at Ranboo’s words. Tubbo turned around and smiled at him, making him smile back. He smirked at Dream, confidence beginning to return.

“Looks like I’m stuck with them.” Dream shrugged.

“Oh well, you had your chance to save them. I guess their blood will be on your hands.”

The three sneered at the man despite the spike of anxiety that rushed through them. Dream laughed, staring at Tommy.

“Aw, are you nervous? Don’t worry, it’ll be over soon enough. Then we can go back home. Maybe I’ll even let you give them a proper burial, if you’re good.” Tommy glared, gripping his axe tightly and stepping closer to Dream.

Tubbo and Ranboo went to follow, but Tommy turned around and shook his head.

“This is my fight.”

“Tommy, no-”

“I can do this. Just, uh, be ready for backup in case I can’t?” Sighing, Tubbo reluctantly nodded.

“Fine. But the second it gets out of hand, we’re helping.” Tommy smiled.

“Wouldn’t expect any less.” He turned forward, grin falling away when he faced Dream. The smile on his mask started back.

He rushed forward with his axe aimed towards Dream’s head.

Dream dodged, slotting Tommy’s blade with his own, effectively cutting off any attacks. Tommy pulled his axe out with a yell, and the two began to circle one another. Tommy sliced along Dream’s arm, and the man retaliated by cutting the teen’s leg. Both wounds were bleeding, but not deep enough for any real damage.

Tubbo and Ranboo looked at each other, debating whether or not to step in. Tubbo caught Tommy's eye, and the magical teen shook his head. *Not yet.* Tommy stabbed at the mask, and pieces of porcelain shattered onto the ground.

Most of the mask stayed intact, but part of Dream's face became visible.

Seeing him threw Tommy off. It was easy to fight the man with the mask hiding who he was, but without it, Tommy felt slightly conflicted about what he was doing. Dream was evil, obviously, but the man had practically raised him.

He caught Dream's eye, and the sadistic glint in it made Tommy falter.

Dream kicked at Tommy's leg, *hard*, and the force from the blow hitting his cut made him fall with a yelp of pain. Dream was quick to follow with the brunt of his sword against the limb, and Tommy's scream was not enough to drown out the loud cracking that followed.

Dream turned toward the others, who both had their weapons ready. Pulling out his bow, he shot Tubbo in the stomach. The teen fell to his knees, hands clutching around where the arrow was lodged into him. Ranboo was torn on who to go help. He stood with his dagger aimed at Dream, staring angrily. Dream rolled his eyes and stepped forward.

Ranboo was good with a weapon, but was nowhere near Tommy's level, let alone Dream's. It took almost no time for his dagger to be thrown away from him. Dream had his blade to his neck, but hesitated.

"Y'know, Tubbo was the one who started this whole mess. I'm happy for Tommy to watch his first friend die slowly from a wound he could easily heal. Kid deserves it, honestly. But for you, I think something quick will do just fine." Dream said, gripping onto Ranboo's shoulder and pulling him to the cliff's edge.

"Don't worry! There's a pond at the bottom, and it'll help to break your fall a bit. Oh, wait! That won't work for you, will it?"

Ranboo shook fearfully. He knew that once Dream threw him off, he was done for. Without a solid base under him, his teleportation was rendered useless.

Tommy limped towards them, dragging his bent and bloody leg as fast as he could.

"Wait! *Please*, I-I'll go with you!" Dream paused at the edge. He raised his eyebrows at Tommy.

"Go on."

"Let him go and let me heal them. Let them leave here, and I'll stay with you. *Forever*. Just like you want." Dream hummed, thinking. Ranboo looked at the teen, pleading.

"Tommy, please, it's not worth it--"

"It'll be okay. *You'll* be okay." Tommy said to him. He turned to Dream and continued, desperate to save his friends.

“I’ll never fight. I’ll never even complain. You can cut me whenever you want, and I’ll sing whenever you need. *I swear*. Just let me save them.”

After a minute, Dream smirked.

“You see, that would be a good deal, but I think you gain more than I do. I mean, you get to save two people, while I only get you in return! So how about I make it more fair? Narrow it down to just you and Tubbo. A life for a life.”

Dream pushed Ranboo over the edge. Tommy went to catch him, his hand barely grazing the hybrid’s before Dream pulled him back.

“Ranboo!” Tubbo rushed forward, grimacing but not stopping as the arrow in his stomach dug further into his flesh. He quickly pulled it out and threw it onto the ground. Both teens called out for their friend in despair, and Dream laughed.

Loud flapping echoed from below.

Large black wings and a green striped hat came into view.

Philza had an iron grip on Ranboo, and didn’t loosen it at all until he set him down gently onto the ground.

Tubbo sighed in relief and sat on the ground. Ignoring the stinging pain from his wound, he looked to Phil and grinned.

“You came! *Thank you*.” Phil smiled and nodded his head towards the edge.

“Unfortunately, I can’t take the credit for this one.”

Two heads appeared above the cliff’s edge, and soon the princes were fully up. Armed and ready, their anger aimed at Dream. Tommy laughed, turning his head towards Dream to smirk.

“Oh, you’re fucked now.”

Chapter End Notes

aaaaand update finished!! hope you enjoyed!!!

the royal family is here to fuck shit up

okay but i have a question: if i were to add on to this story beyond the end of tangled, would you read it? i'm just thinking that random little oneshots of tommy and the others fucking around in the kingdom could be fun, and i'd either make it a sequel-type separate work or just add it into here, or maybe some other side story with the characters and plot and shit that show tommy adjusting to life and the challenges he faces

let me know!

bring back what once was mine

Chapter Summary

the fight for tommy's freedom continues. this time, though, they have a bit of help.

Chapter Notes

hello!!! im back for the last time!!

today is my birthday, and i thought wow wouldnt this be a great time to finish the fic off?? so here we are

dont worry there will be a sequal because i can and i will

thank you to everyone, and i hope you enjoy!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

The princes stared at the empty prison cell in front of them. Despite his anger at the two, Wilbur felt that something wasn't quite right with the situation.

Tubbo and Ranboo had been loyal friends for years without fail. Why would that stop now?

And what would lying about their motives accomplish? They were already in jail, and the crown was returned. They didn't have anything to gain from it.

If anything, they seemed more distressed than he'd ever seen them before.

Which means that Tommy must really be in trouble.

Tommy's in trouble, and he would've been safe if it weren't for us.

Looking at his brother, he could tell he was having a similar realization. Before he could speak, Technoblade beat him to it.

"Wilbur, I think we've made a big mistake." Wilbur nodded solemnly.

"*Fuck*. They're never gonna forgive us, are they? And how are we even gonna get over there? We gotta help them." Techno looked at his brother, and the two sighed simultaneously. After a minute of silence, Wilbur spoke up.

“So, who’s gonna be the one to tell dad?”

When the princes and king arrived, Tommy laughed.

“Oh, you’re fucked now.”

Using Dream’s surprise to his advantage, he broke out of his grip. He quickly rubbed in some of the blood on his leg, allowing both the wound and the bone to heal. He caught Techno’s eye, and the prince nodded at him and tossed Tommy his axe. Tommy caught it effortlessly, and slashed up Dream’s collarbone to his neck.

Dream yelled in pain.

Tommy quickly kicked his leg, smiling as the man fell. *Now you know how it feels, dickhead.*

Techno glared at Dream angrily, ready for blood. Phil stood next to him, weapon in hand.

Tommy laughed once more.

“Nice job.” Phil said to him, ruffling his hair.

Tommy beamed.

Techno stepped forward and aimed his weapon at Dream’s head, Phil close behind. Dream got up and clashed his sword with Techno’s. The two fought for a few minutes, skill levels basically equal, before Techno was able to stab his side. Phil walked forward as Dream fell and placed his blade at the man’s neck. He paused, hesitating. Dream didn’t deserve a quick death. He stabbed his chest, deciding to let the man bleed out.

Meanwhile, Wilbur had run over to Ranboo, checking his wounds.

“Are you okay?” Ranboo nodded.

“Yeah, thanks to you.” Wilbur scowled.

“No. This wouldn’t have happened if we’d just listened to you. I’m so sorry.” Tubbo smiled at him from where he sat and called over.

“Eh, it’s fine. The important thing is that everyone’s okay.”

“I wouldn’t say that. I doubt that the arrow was just a scratch.” Tubbo winced, clutching his gut as Ranboo spoke. Tommy looked over from where he had just been with Dream, gasping when he saw Tubbo.

“Tubbo! Shit, let me see-“ Tommy said, rushing over to look at the wound. Tubbo shook his head.

“I don’t think you can heal this one.” Tommy gasped, looking at the gash. It bled heavily, and was bigger and deeper than anything Tommy had ever healed before. He stared at the wound, unsure. *Fuck*. Tubbo coughed, and blood came up from his throat. He began to close his eyes as Ranboo and the princes ran over.

“*Tubbo!* Just stay awake, it’ll be okay-“

“Don’t close your eyes, please-“

“C’mon, stay with us-“

“I can help you, just let me heal you-“

Tubbo shook his head and smiled softly.

“It’s okay. We got Tommy free, just like we said we would. Take care of each other, okay?”

“You can take care of us yourself! Just stay awake!” Ranboo said, tears beginning to fall. He winced at the burning on his face.

“Tubbo, *please!* You said you wouldn’t leave me! Don’t you dare do it now!” Tommy yelled, crying.

“I’m sorry.”

Tubbo smiled bittersweetly and exhaled for the last time.

He was gone.

Ranboo shook his body, praying for him to wake up. Tommy did the same.

His eyes stayed shut.

The princes had tears in their eyes as they pulled the teens off of his body. Ranboo went limp in Techno’s arms, too sad to put up a fight.

When Tommy felt Wilbur grab him, he screamed. He tried to fight out of Wilbur’s grip, but he couldn’t.

“Let me go! I can help him!” Wilbur shook his head, tears staining his face.

“Tommy... he’s gone. There’s nothing we can do.”

“No, I can help him!”

“The best thing we can do is not touch him, so he can have a nice burial.” Technoblade said, holding back tears.

“Let me go! I can save him- Ranboo, back me up here!” Ranboo sighed.

“Tommy, I-“

Tommy broke out of Wilbur’s grip, running towards Tubbo’s unmoving body.

He took some of the blood off of his leg, rubbing it into Tubbo’s wound, only for nothing to happen.

“C’mon, wake up! Wake up, Tubbo! *Please*, please come back...” His screams echoed throughout the cavern as he shook the corpse of his first friend.

He quickly grabbed the arrow beside Tubbo and sliced down his arm. Once it began to bleed, he rubbed it onto the teen.

Tubbo remained still.

“No! It has to work! C’mon-“

He cried out in pain. *My first friend died for me. He died because of me.*

His face was painfully red, tears streaming down and falling onto the dead teen under him.

Unnoticed by Tommy, they were absorbed into Tubbo’s skin with a glow. Bright, yellow flowers began to sketch across his body, like someone had taken a quill and dipped it in gold before beginning to draw.

Tommy looked up, surprised, as they flew off into the air, filling the nearby sky with intricate sunny ribbons of flowers and swirls. They then retreated to the sight of the wound, causing the gash to glow.

Tubbo inhaled shakily, coughing.

“Tubbo?” Tommy asked, loosening his hold on the teen’s shoulders in disbelief.

“Wow, and I thought *I* was the clingy one.” Tubbo said, smiling shakily. Tommy pulled him in for a tight hug.

“*Tubbo!*” Ranboo ran towards them, joining the hug with Wilbur and Techno close behind. The five of them stayed like that, huddled together on the ground, until Phil came over and rested a hand on Tubbo’s shoulder.

“I’m glad you’re okay.” Tubbo grinned before getting up, bringing the others with him.

“You can’t get rid of me that easily.” They all laughed before Tubbo turned to the princes.

“While I was dead, I spoke to the Gods, who said you both owe me 10 gold pieces. It’s compensation for being a dick.” Wilbur laughed, wiping the tears from his eyes.

“I’ll give you all the gold in the kingdom if you promise not to scare us like that again.” They all chuckled before Tubbo looked towards Tommy.

“Speaking of which, what the fuck, man! You literally brought me back from the dead! How did you do that?” Wilbur nodded and spoke up.

“Yeah, I’d like to know as well. What the fuck was all that?” Tommy ruffled his hair, slightly embarrassed.

“Well, I kinda forgot to tell you that I have healing powers? However, I was *not* aware that they could bring people back from the dead.”

“What the fuck. Seriously, *what?!* ” Wilbur said. Techno looked over at Tubbo and Ranboo, who did not look nearly as surprised as he felt.

“Wait, so you told the two *thieves*, but not us?” Tommy laughed.

“Yeah, but to be fair, you can’t blame me for not trusting you. I mean, look who I spent my whole life with.” He pointed back at Dream’s still body, everyone grimacing. Ranboo considered that fact before speaking.

“Yeah, but you told us. Why?” Tommy rolled his eyes.

“First of all, I didn’t *tell* you, I *healed* you out of the goodness of my heart. Something that I’m beginning to regret.” Everyone laughed before Ranboo spoke, glaring amusedly at Tommy.

“I think *I’m* beginning to regret offering to let you move in with us.” Tommy stuck his tongue out at him.

“Too bad! You can’t take it back now, Tubbo won’t let you. And besides, who else can help you if you do something stupid like get caught in the rain?” They all laughed before Techno realized something, snapping his fingers.

“That’s how you got healed from the water burns!” Ranboo nodded and both princes looked at him, apologetic.

“Sorry for not believing you.” The hybrid waved them off.

“No, I understand. You didn’t know.”

“Still. We should’ve listened to *you*, not that asshole.”

“As someone who’s been listening to that asshole all my life, I can say with certainty that it’s not your fault. He twists your mind into thinking that he’s right, no matter what.” Tommy said. Everyone grew quiet.

Wilbur, in an attempt to break the silence, decided to change the subject.

“Well, besides the whole healing power thing, what else have you been hiding from us?” He asked lightheartedly.

Tommy ran his fingers through his hair nervously.

“Actually, about that...” He paused, taking a second to think about how he wanted to break the news.

“Earlier, I listened to that Cat disc for the first time. It made me remember my family, my *real* family, and how they chose my name.” Tommy looked over to Techno, wrinkling his nose.

“Theseus? Really? You should’ve let Wilbur pick.”

The entire royal family went still.

“It’s you?” Techno asked, breathless.

Tommy nodded awkwardly.

“Yeah. Prince Theseus, in the flesh. I’d prefer it if you called me Tommy, though.” The ongoing silence was making Tommy fiddle with his hands, anxious.

“I’m sorry if I’m not what you wanted-“

“What do you mean? You’re smart, you’re hilarious, and you’re *so fucking stubborn*.” Wilbur said, grinning.

“Yeah, you’re strong and confident, but not overly arrogant.” Techno added. Phil stepped forward.

“You’re my *son*. What else could I possibly want?”

Tears sprang into Tommy’s eyes.

“I- can I hug you?”

“*Please*.”

Tommy ran forward, and was encased in a hug by his family.

It was the best feeling *ever*.

All four of them cried, years of loneliness and longing washed away by their tears.

“After all these years, I have you back. My *son*. My little ray of sunshine.” Phil said, laughing shakily.

Tommy smiled.

After a minute, they all pulled away from the hug.

Tubbo cleared his throat.

“Does this mean we’re not going to jail anymore?” He asked, grinning. Ranboo elbowed him, scoffing fondly. Phil turned back to face them.

“There’s no way in hell you’ll ever end up there again. Not after what you’ve done for my family.” He looked over to Tommy.

“I know Ranboo mentioned earlier that you were invited to live with him and Tubbo, but I’d love it if you’d consider living in the castle. If not, I understand, but... it would be nice to get to know you more.” Tommy turned toward his friends hesitantly. He’d absolutely love to live with them, but on the other hand, the idea of living with his family made him inexplicably happy. Ranboo rolled his eyes, sensing Tommy’s struggle.

“Live with them, Tommy. You deserve to be with your family.” Tommy grinned.

“Thank you guys. For everything.” Tubbo laughed.

“You say that like you’ll never see us again. In my eyes, there’s now a whole new prince to steal from.”

Laughing, Tommy rubbed the remaining tears off of his face.

“You ready to go?” Phil asked him. Tommy nodded.

As they left, he looked back at his old house.

“Did you want to grab anything?” Tommy shook his head.

“No. There’s nothing left for me there.”

He turned forward and began walking to the kingdom with his family.

It was nice, finally having a place to go home to. A home where the people inside of it love you for you, and not for what you can do for them.

Sure, there’s bound to be arguments and miscommunications, but that’s normal. Things happen, and he can overcome them as they arise.

The important thing is that he no longer felt that he had to face everything alone.

In his heart, Tommy knew he would never be alone again.

The others had left for the kingdom hours ago, leaving Dream’s still body behind.

The man grimaced, rising slowly from the ground.

Thank god the healing potions he had on him had broken during the fight, otherwise he wouldn't have survived. However, potions or not, his whole body felt stiff from playing dead so long.

He sighed.

It would be hard to get Tommy back, of course, but Dream was never one to back down from a challenge.

Chapter End Notes

aaaand fic finished!! i hope you enjoyed!!

stay tuned for the sequel itll begin in a few days

(UPDATE ITS OUT AND READY TO ROLL)

im also working on other fics so :D

i want to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who read, commented, or left kudos!! when i started this story it was just for fun and i wasnt expecting anyone to read so the fact that weve gotten this far makes me cry im so beyond happy

i hope you have an amazing day and ilysm <3

Please [drop by the Archive and comment](#) to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!